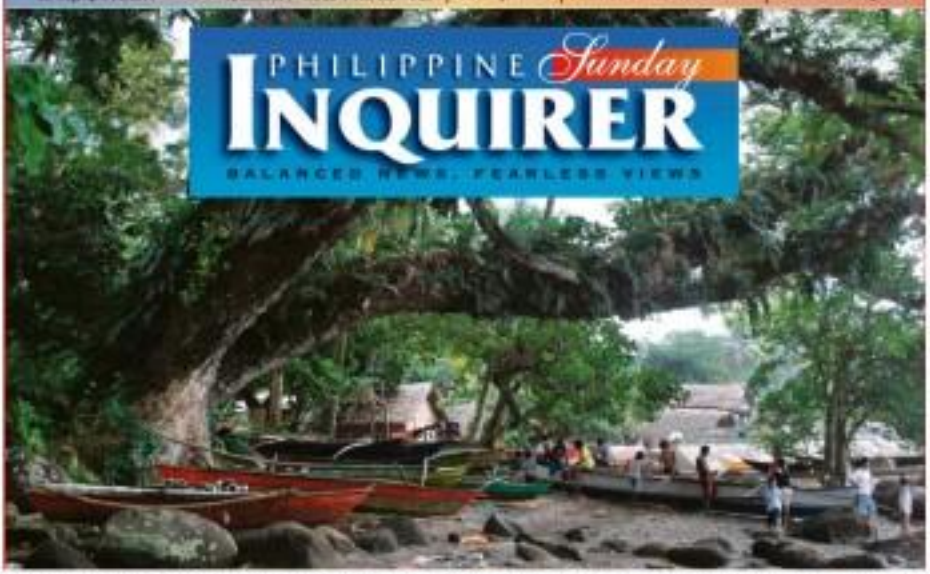
Sunday, April 24, 2011 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 36 / No. 119 P30 | www.inquirer.net | Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



HERITAGE TREE This huge acacia tree, said to be more than a hundred years old, is found along the shore of Sorsogon Bay at Barangay Bacalscalan in Sorsogon City. Environmentalists are celebrating Earth Day today, stressing the need for the country to protect its forests. (See story below.)

15 buried miners saved

Compostela landslide: 3 dead, 21 still missing

By Frinston Lim
Inquirer Mindanao

PANTUBAN, Compostela Valley—Rescuers backed by bulldozers and other heavy equipment worked all day yesterday to find more survivors of a landslide that hit the mining village of Pangasinsinon at around 2:30 a.m. on Good Friday.

Clad in orange suits, the rescuers sifted through the rubble in the hope of adding more survivors—11 so far—plucked from the mud and rocks. Not 21 people remained unaccounted for, according to Maj. Jake Obligado, commanding officer of the 71st Infantry Battalion.

Obligado confirmed that "nine more people escaped death," adding to the initial six dug out of the mud on Friday.

"It's Divine Providence," he said. "It's good the tragedy happened on a Good Friday, when many families were away on vacation. If the landslide happened on a normal day, many would have died."

Obligado said search-and-

I RANKED A12

RESCUE BID Soldiers stand guard as rescuers search for landslide victims at Barangay Kinghing in Pantukan town in Compostela Valley. AL-VIN

A heritage tree eyed for Sorsogon

By Rosalie Laguna-Gracia
Correspondent

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launched a program in 2009 to find and tag 75 trees a year as "heritage trees."

Two that qualified is an acacia tree, also known as a rain tree, at St. Therese's College (STC) in Quezon City. It was the first to be so declared officially last year, according to an Inquirer report on Dec. 12.

And the STC spectacle is only the benefit in Metro Manila to be identified and tagged under the DENR "Heritage Tree Program."

The Inquirer's "Talk of the Town" section last month featured five heritage trees so marked by the DENR in Metro Manila. The article also listed 43 candidates for the program in Manila, Pasay City, Quezon City and Makati City.

An old acacia tree situated in the coastal barrio of Bacalscalan, Sorsogon City, may very well soon recognition as a

A MINUTE A12

Naia will finally have clean toilets

By DJ Yap

SOLD your breath a little bit longer.

Going by criticism that Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) is one of the world's worst airports, officials promised to clean its Terminal 1 toilets by providing running water, toilet paper and soap—all within

FINAN A-9

Pope goes hi-tech to ease suffering

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI consoled a 7-year-old Japanese girl, reassured a mother about her ailing son's soul and advised a Brazilian woman that dialogue was the way to peace in Ivory Coast.

It's a feat to engage the world online, the Pontiff fielded questions from the girl, mother and Brazilian woman during an unusual Good Friday appearance on Italian TV.

It was hardly a casual or spontaneous chat. Sworn questions were selected from thousands that poured in via RAI television's website, and Benedict recorded his answers last week.

He seemed a bit stiff, sitting all alone in a big white chair behind his desk inside the Apostolic Palace as an unseen interviewer read out the letters to him.

But the teacher and pastor in the 84-year-old Benedict came through as he fielded the questions, which all dealt with suffering and Jesus' death, which Christians recall on Good Fri-

POPE A-10

Ad congress gears up for changing game

By Ivy Ong
Correspondent

ANYONE who takes on the Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) has to be insane, or at least that's what Randy Prieto-Fernandez thought the year when she accepted the task of chairing its 22nd edition.

AD CONGRESS A2

Bread, soup and memories left by Indochina refugees in Bataan

MORONG, Bataan—Not one of the 20,000 Indochinese refugees for whom Pope John Paul II came and celebrated Mass on Feb. 21, 1981, at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center (PRPC) has stayed behind in this coastal town.

Neither did they necessarily with the locals one leave behind a child, according to Mayor Cynthia Limas Hernandez, citing a previous food-coma.

But the Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians left more than just memories. They also left their stamp that some residents enjoy to this day.

The long bread roast sandwich, bun nut and rice noodle soup, ba tiro, which can be served sweet or spicy, are available to this town, Bernardino Mendoza said.

In this town of at least 27,000 people, a few much famous still tell those Vietnamese faces as operations, according to Mendoza, 86.

Fr. Fernando Lanuza, this town's parish priest, and retired Commodore Amado

BREAD A24

Estrada accepts Corpus apology

FORMER President Joseph Estrada has accepted the apology of retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

ESTRADA A10

WORLD

- **81** killed in bloodiest day of Syrian unrest

NEWS

- **I'm against** abortion–Noy

NEWS

- **24** Filipinos nailed to crosses in ritual

ENTERTAINMENT

- **Charice** talks about new movie

SHOWBIZ

- **The Thrills** and perils of Internet dating

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

I'm against abortion –P-Noy

Aquino clarifies strong stand with 5-point declaration on RH

By Christian V. Esguerra

SHORTLY after his combative speech at the University of the Philippines graduation rites, President Aquino made it clear that a responsible parenthood program under his administration would make natural and modern family planning methods "equally available" to couples.

The President issued the clarification in a five-point declaration titled "President Aquino's stand on responsible parenthood," (I was passed as the Official Gazette (www.gov.ph) on the same day he told UP graduates that he would ensure that such a law was passed under his watch despite strong opposition from Catholics and other pro-life advocates. (See related story on page 5.)

"I am against abortion," Mr. Aquino said in the declaration, adding that he was in favor of "giving reception (to right) to choose how best to manage their families so that in the end, their welfare and that of their children are best served."

"In a situation where couples, especially the poor and disadvantaged ones, are in no position to make an informed judgment, the State has the responsibility to so provide," he said.

"In the range of options and information provided to couples, natural family planning and modern methods shall be preserved as equally available."

The President also gave premium on individual conscience, the primacy of which Church leaders and moral theologians have long maintained could not be made the subject matter of moral judgment.

But Mr. Aquino, a Catholic, said: "The State must respect each individual's right to follow his or her conscience and religious convictions on matters and issues pertaining to the unity of the family and the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death."

In his message for future funding, the most important day for Zambales, the President took pot-shot other swipe at the previous administration, saying it left him a "calamity" of problems to solve.

He urged the public to keep daily **in the campaign against graft and** corruption, the overriding theme of his 14-month-old administration.

Mr. Aquino asked the faithful to draw on the "spirit" Jesus Christ's sacrifice to realize their ceaseless in putting an end to corruption.

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US, Singapore yachtsmen rescued

MANILA—An American and a Singaporean on a boating holiday were rescued by the Philippine Navy after their yacht was damaged by large waves, the Navy said yesterday.

The vessel, Fly Hallois Fly, was traveling from Kudat in Borneo to Palawan when it was spotted in distress on Friday, prompting a hero's hunt to get to their aid.

The pair was rescued from their yacht which had run aground and was half submerged near Palawan, the Navy said in a statement. AFP

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Feast of The Divine Mercy

May 1, 2011

(First Sunday after Easter, which is now designated in the Church's liturgical feasts as the Second Sunday of Easter)

1. Beginning with Good Friday as a preparation for the Feast of Mercy, according to our Lord's express wish, it is greatly recommended to give hours to the Divine Mercy, in answer to Jesus' desire and appeal, by offering the Novena to the Divine Mercy for the consolation of the whole world and that the Divine Mercy will be known so that everyone will enter Christ' goodness.
2. To the celebration of the Feast of the Divine Mercy, Jesus attaches extraordinary promise:

"To those who go to Confession days before or on the Feast and receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast of the Divine Mercy and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment"

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

Make this a permanent devotion in your life to obtain salvation for you and your loved ones.

The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy

(to private recitation or ordinary rosary beads)

Begin with: Our Father... Hail Mary... I believe in God...

On the OUR FATHER beads: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the HAIL MARY beads: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.

CONCLUDE with: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (3 times)

Amen

3 O'clock Prayer

"You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world."

"O Fountain of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us."

"O Blood and Water, which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!"

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and the whole world." (3x Amen)

Jesus King of Mercy we trust in You!

First Day

Today bring to Me

ALL MANKIND, ESPECIALLY ALL SINNERS,

and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me.

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon the trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. I'm the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy forever and ever. Amen.

Second Day

Today bring to Me

THE SOULS OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS,

and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy. It was they who gave me strength to endure My bitter Passion. Through them as through channels My mercy flows out upon mankind.

Most Merciful Jesus, from whom comes all that is good, increase Your grace in men and women consecrated to Your service, that they may perform worthy works of mercy, and that all who see them may glorify the Father of Mercy who is in heaven.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company of chosen ones in Your vineyard – upon the souls of priests and religious and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others in the way of salvation and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.

Cardinal urges charm offensive but hits P-Noy's lack of faith

By Philip C. Tubeza

TAKE IT from someone who has worked the corridors of power at the Vatican.

Seeing that President Aquino was now "losing his popularity," Jose Cardinal Sanchez, the oldest among the country's three living cardinals, has urged Catholic bishops to go on a charm offensive and befriend lawmakers to win them over in the reproductive health (RH) bill debate.

Sanchez, 91, also lamented in an interview with CBCP News that President Aquino's mother (the late President Corazon Aquino) and his sisters had "more faith than him."

"He is now losing his popularity. He has no Fifth (the) to marriage. It is now much problem now and he is losing popularity. (His) mother (the late former President Corazon Aquino) and (his) sisters have more faith than him," said Sanchez, who once oversaw the dioceses priests around the world as prefect of the Vatican Congregation on the Clergy.

Hiking Pinoys' income

Sanchez said that the government should try to improve the lot of Filipino families by increasing their income instead of "frustrating" them by pushing for the RH bill.

But with the President losing his populating Sanchez said that Congress would not be able to pass the bill. And a charm offensive could help.

Sanchez recalled that when he was once a bishop assigned in Isiad, he was a "friend to all the congressmen" so it was easy for him to convince them when a proposed law contradicted church doctrine.

"If there are bills contradictory to the Catholic teachings, I would go to those congressmen I see by one to enlighten them with the Catholic teachings and they would easily agree with me. And as friends, they would find it hard to go against the bishop," Sanchez said.

However, he admitted that it would be harder to do this now since many lawmakers today are non-Christians.

What next?

Sanchez said he came back to the country from Rome to ward off the "tendencies that threaten to destroy the Catholic Church."

He said he was worried that some-one marriage, which he said had been approved in Brazil—the world's largest Catholic country—might also be "accepted" here in the Philippines.

"I did not come here to fight the RH bill. I came here to protect the Catholic doctrine. (The RH bill) is insignificant as far as the problems of the world are concerned. But I'm happy that it is being fared seriously by the Philippine Church," Sanchez said.

He said that if the Church fails to reverse these "tendencies" that threaten the Church, there would be fewer priests in the country in 50 years' time.

"The world is changing, and the devil doesn't sleep. I hope the Philippines will remain a Christian country. But I know the (Filipino) Christians are not sleeping, they keep on fighting," Sanchez said.

The Daily Gospel

APRIL 24 (Sunday)
Psalter: Proper
Easter Sunday
Is 144:1-8, 16-17, 22-23

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Peter spoke to the people, "Truly, I realize that God does not show partiality. No doubt you have heard of the event that occurred throughout the whole country of the Jews, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism John preached. His is how God anointed Jesus the Nazarean with Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him; we are witnesses of all that he did throughout the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem itself. He then put him to death by hanging him on a wooden cross.

"But God raised him to life on the third day and let him manifest himself, not to all the people, but to the witnesses that were chosen beforehand by God—to us who ate and drank with him after he arose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets are witness that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his name."

Responsorial Psalm: Col 3:1-4 (or 1 Cor 5:6b-8)

2nd Reading: Brothers and brothers, if you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on earthly things. For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, reveals himself, you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9

On the first day after the sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and she saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have laid him."

Peter then acted with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths lying flat, but he did not enter.

Then Simon Peter came following him and entered the tomb; he, too, saw the linen cloths lying flat. The napkin, which had been around his head was not lying flat like the other linen cloths but lay rolled up in its place. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and believed. Scripture clearly said that he must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that.

Reflections:

Justice

✦ Scripture clearly said that he must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that.

Meditation

✦ The Lord is always with us for we dare to act as fellows, to expect ease in order to understand. We have to learn to accept what He tells us.

Oration

✦ Let us continue to rediscover life with the eyes of faith, finding meaning and joy even in the most mundane.

Action

✦ Try to find significance in our daily routine. Even in our boredom, God can be found. Celebrate life with joy in Christ.

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Ad congress gears up for changing game

From page A1

Bonnaddez is the president and CEO of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which, under her leadership, remains one of the country's most trusted newspapers.

BONNADDEZ: Chair of the 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress

As an active supporter of Effie & Unico Foundation, Hands On Manila, WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature), Children's Hour and various outreach programs, she is operating at full capacity.

"I was very hesitant because I know what kind of work it would take to be the host of the PAC," Bonnaddez says.

"But this is going to be the first time ever that someone from the print media is going to head the PAC. We felt it's our time to pay back the industry and show that the print medium can be good hosts of the congress."

This year's theme, 'Change the Game," is a call for the advertising industry to move further ahead. The first step is rooted in statistics fact: This year's PAC, scheduled for Nov. 16-19, will be held in the Comfort Bonifacio's Congress.

At a time when the advertising industry is looking to be inspired, Caroline is a breakthrough choice. "Boracay — She's Intoxicating" is one of the most successful tourism campaigns that "drew foreign tourists to the Philippines' 10th richest province and, according to the Department of Tourism, its No. 1 tourist destination.

"I want the ad congress to inspire people to think of ways to break barriers," Bonnaddez says.

"We started from the idea of breakthroughs and advances. They are action words that are mentally positive. Everyone, I have assured the BOC to be centered around that."

Creating change

In the advertising industry, or in any industry for that matter, game-changing is about taking stock of the here and now—but not getting stuck in its problems.

As Bonnaddez points out, it's not about being focused on the problem but about having the courage to find solutions and create change.

"There are problems in every industry, whether it be how we deal with each other or [with] vendors," she says.

"With the frustrations, realities and misfortunes of an industry today, changing the game could be a new move—a change of mindset, a change in approach. In fact, the intent is that in the ad congress, we will be having some industry policy changes that we hope to announce."

The 22nd PAC will find Bonnaddez the most eligible personality to emcee a generation of game-changers, for she has always been one to undertake innovative projects.

It was primarily through her efforts that the business is now printed using nontoxic soy-based ink, and was restored to a three-day week from seven days every day. She also instituted a complete renewal of editorial policies for the paper.

Recently, the Philippine Daily Inquirer launched its radio station. And now, it has also conquered the digital space and premiered an Asian-first Kindle edition and digital replica on iPad.

"If you want to see growth, you have to open yourself to change," Bonnaddez declares.

Fun and learning

As this year's PAC finds Bonnaddez envisioning many improvements, from the administrative aspect to the congress project, to enhance the delegates' overall experience.

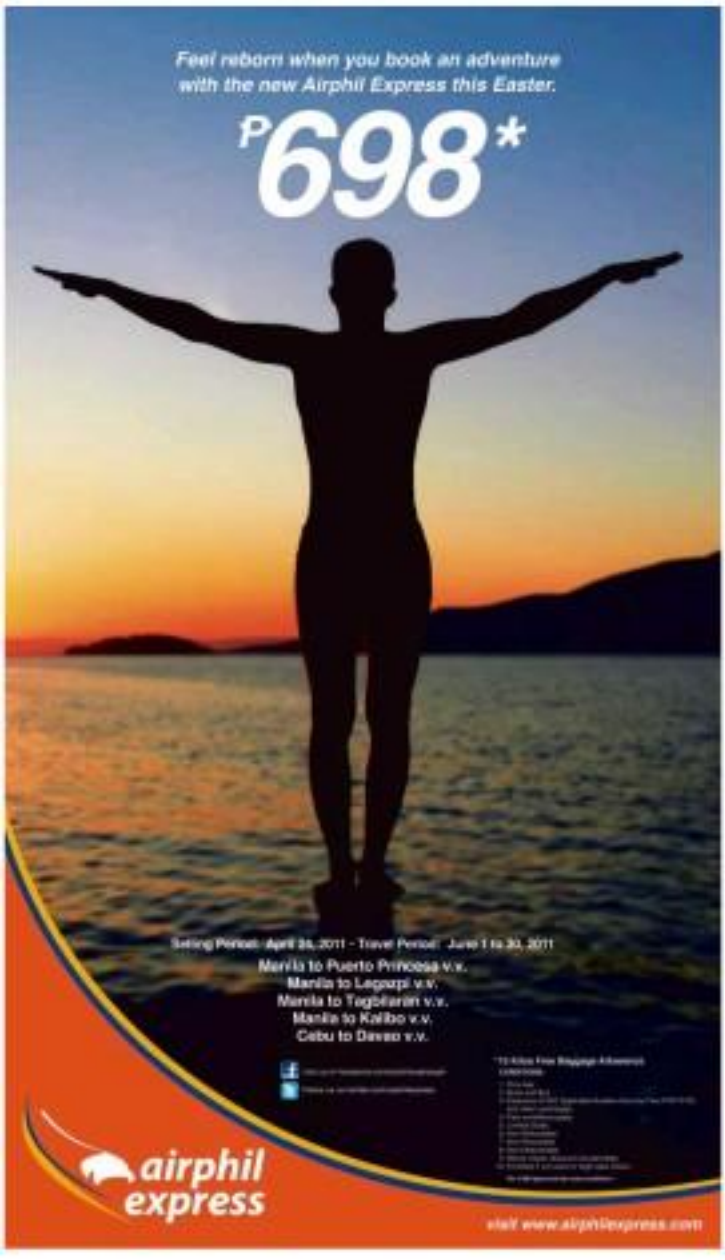
"Starting with the online registration, we're going to try to make things a little more seamless," she says, adding:

"You can consider this to be the most active ad congress. We're going to manage the fun part and the learning part and have more of a balance. That's why we chose Caroline. We're trying to be as green as possible."

With an assembly of congressional speakers complemented by a program of sporting activities, the 22nd PAC is intended to get the entire industry into the change mode.

"The game-changing generation is a driven one—one that is not satisfied with where they are. They're always trying to improve, trying to think of the best ways, and be best approach," Bonnaddez says.

She has proved enough a successful career that a world of opportunities opens up when one driven change. If the whole industry stands together in embrace change as well, it could grow beyond our most hopeful imaginations.



Fertilizer scam blunder may add to Merci's woes

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESUPPOSITIONS that Commodore Mercedes Gonzalez might have bungled the filing of criminal charges in connection with the P728-million fertilizer fund scam may not necessarily be used against her in the upcoming impeachment trial.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III yesterday said it would be up to the House prosecutors team to decide whether to include the alleged blunder.

"We will just have to look at how prosecutors will incorporate that in the articles of impeachment," he told the Inquirer by phone. "Whether that, is covered by any of the articles filed, we can only gauge once it is actually included. It would be best if the prosecutor chooses is among themselves."

Sotto noted that the impeachment rules, following the rules of evidences, provided that prosecution of evidence not included in the articles of impeachment or charges.

Rules of evidence

"Based on the rules of evidence, only those included in the articles of impeachment will be tackled," he said.

While Ilocos Sur Rep. Jose Barredo earlier cited lied allies the Ombudsman recommended the filing of plunder charges against her in connection with the fertilizer fund scam. Leading the list of respondents were former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Chi" Lorenzo and Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joojoo" Bolante.

Barredo questioned the inclusion given that he was a mere "minor" in the operation. He admitted receiving P10,000 monthly while acting as a liaison between agriculture officials and local politicians, who benefited from unexplained funds in provincial implements.

Enrile was accused of taking out the case, which took several years before her office finally came out with a resolution, a few days before the Holy Week.

Sotto said the Senate was "all set" to convene as an impeachment court on May 9, during which members of the chamber will take their "oath of impartiality" as they sit as senator-judges in the trial.

Oath of impartiality

"We will take the oath in public on impartiality," he said. "The oath will state whatever people might have been leery of the outcome of the Senate might have said before the impeachment trial proper, I would like to believe that after the oath, we will all be taking the straight path, so to speak."

Still, he acknowledged that the oath still could not preclude any party in the case from seeking the inhibition of a particular senator-judge. But, he said, a senator could not be forced to step out of the trial.

"They can do that (file a motion to inhibit) anytime but it would be up to the senator whether to accede to it or not," he said.

Before the impeachment court opens at 2 p.m., he said senators would first sit down to caucus to decide on a resolution seeking to expedite the trial.

In the resolution, Sen. Priamo Pangilinan and two others were senators to decide on the fate of Gonzalez each time the presentation of evidence and subsequent rebuttal were completed in a particular article of impeachment.

The rule now stands that prosecution for all six articles of impeachment should first be completed before senators cast their votes.

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Bill seeks to correct party-list flaws

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By Cynthia D. Balana

A GROUP of members of the House of Representatives has moved to revise the existing party-list system, which he said has defeated the purpose of sectoral representation as provided under the law.

Bohol Rep. Aller R. Aumentado filed House Bill (HB) 4264 seeks to amend Republic Act No. 7941, otherwise known as the "Party List System Act" in order to strengthen party list representation.

According to Aumentado, the party-list system aimed to democratize political power in the country by providing marginalized sectors with their own representatives.

However, it has not fully achieved the actual goal of party-list representation as envisioned under RA 7941 because some sectoral parties lack distinctive platforms and fill up their seats with "assortment of accommodators."

"Those defeat the purpose of giving voice to marginalized and underrepresented sectors," Aumentado stressed.

To address the issue, Aumentado's bill requires party-list groups as well as their nominees to prove valid credentials of their adherence and involvement in advancing the causes of the sector they seek to represent.

At the same time, the bill aims to allow more seats for party-list representatives, said Aumentado, chair of the House committee on ethics and privileges.

Formula for allocating seats

Aumentado said the bill provides a formula for allocating seats to any party-list group or coalition that gets at least two percent of the total votes cast for the party-list system.

His formula, however, will allow party-list representation to groups next in rank (votes those who got less than the required two percent) until all available seats are considered, thus maximizing the location possible representation of marginalized sectors in the legislature, Aumentado said.

The 1987 Constitution provides that party-list representatives shall constitute 20 percent of the total number of congressmen in the House of Representatives.

Aumentado cited recent Supreme Court rulings, specifically the case of Banat vs. Comelec, where it says that neither the Commission nor RA 7941 mandates the filling up of the entire 20 percent allocation of party-list representatives.

The Supreme Court decision said the Constitution, nor specific provision, left the determination of the number of the House members to Congress but the composition shall not be more than 250 members, unless otherwise fixed by law.

Among Ed's return to active ministry dim

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO... Bishop Pampanga Oct. Teddy Ondoy, whose demo in the priesthood were suspended when he entered politics in 2007, was absent at the Chrism Mass held by the clergy on Monday Thursday.

It was the fifth time he did not attend the ceremony held at the Metropolitan Cathedral here.

Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto said he had allowed Pueblo to hear the Mass and join the renewal of priestly vows "but he cannot concelebrate at the Mass since he is still under suspension."

Pueblo, 57, should have counted 30 years in the ministry, many of them spent in poor communities and implementing social action programs. But in March 2007, he ran for governor, presenting himself as another native to candidates identified with corruption and illegal gambling, and had to be suspended almost two was ultimate Catholic Church rules.

Common goal

The lady had praised for Pueblo's candidacy and several priests supported the move, saying his bid was for the "common good" as a time than the province faced an "extraordinary situation."

Pueblo's last Mass was on March 28, 2007 at the St. James Parish in Betis, Guagua.

As governor, Pueblo introduced anti-corruption reforms and at one time exposed a bribe offer to Malacañang after a meeting of local government executives with then President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Many of Pueblo's allies disagreed with his management style, described as meddling, and broke away from his administration. The legitimacy of Pueblo's removal was questioned in a recall campaign, an election success and reinstated by the Commission on Elections (Com.) Lt. is Pineda and his political allies.

In 2010, the Liberal Party lifted Pueblo to the gubernatorial race but he lost to Pineda.

Aniceto, in 2008, had said that Pueblo's non-renewal of vows was a "consequence of the suspension of the priestly faculties of Among Ed."

Aniceto had said Pueblo "is still a priest," only that the latter could not perform the sacraments, hear confessions and nullify marriages.

Pueblo declined to comment on the matter in deference to the archbishop. He lives at Holy Angel Catholic Church-run university and plays lectures to the youth and the laity.

Tonel's Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Willie's lawyer lashes back at child psychologist

By Leila B. Salaverria

THERE SEEMS to be no truce in the ongoing word war over an episode on a popular TV game show where celebrity host Willie Revillame teased a teary-eyed, six-year-old dancing boy.

Leonard de Vera, lawyer of Revillame, yesterday cast further doubt on the credibility of child psychologist Ma. Lourdes "Bunny" Carandang, who had said she spoke out against the "abuse" of the boy on the Willing Willie show in response to requests for her opinion from the Movie and TV Review and Classification Board.

"If her opinion was sought, why did she have to introduce herself to the letter?" remarked De Vera, who has accused Carandang of working for the rival TV network ABS-CBN.

De Vera quoted from Carandang's letter to the MTRCB, which read: "Let me first introduce myself, because it will explain why I am writing you with such deep concern and urgency."

Demolition job

Carandang earlier denied that she was part of a demolition job against Revillame and said she wrote to the MTRCB on April 1 only upon its request.

Revillame came under fire from child welfare authorities for teasing the six-year-old dancing boy for crying on stage. Revillame later rewarded the boy P10,000 for his efforts.

Critics said the boy was "traumatized" and that his dancing—a popular "grinding sexy dance"—was "inappropriate."

Revillame said the TV station, TV5, have since signed the boy's parents also denied that the boy was forced to dance on the show and said he was crying because he got nervous over a "glare" on a tall man on the set.

De Vera said Carandang's letter was requiring Revillame, who is involved in a multi-million peso legal battle with rival station ABS-CBN. De Vera said Carandang, the mother of former ABS-CBN anchor Ruby Carandang, was a "crusader" for the rival station.

De Vera criticized the psychologist for using findings in her letter that the boy was "abused" without giving her reasons and without even talking to the boy or his parents.

He also noted Carandang's conflicting remarks. He said the psychologist admitted she could not say that there was abuse in the boy's family since she had not met them.

"If this was the case, then Carandang could not have made a psychological assessment of the boy either," he added.

Tin that bind

As for Carandang's statement denying that her foundation, the SILAC Institute, was funded by ABS-CBN, De Vera said MLAC's website lists ABS-CBN as one of its supporters. He also said the psychologist has been silent on her alleged ties with ABS-CBN. He claimed she works as a consultant and resource person in the company's tennis building and personnel-related activities.

"Is she going to deny that at all?" he said.

The crying boy episode has renewed a "heavenly crusade" among people who object to the gyrating sexy dancing contests in the streets of many lower class neighborhoods.

As to whether the dancing boy was crying because he was "abused" or because of stage fright is now impossible the subject of investigation by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

AFP logistics chief relieved amid probe

By Marlon Ramos

ARMED FORCES chief of staff Eduardo Oban Jr. has relieved his top logistics officer amid investigations into the latest allegations of corruption in the military.

In an e-mailed statement, the personnel said Commodore Teddy Paz was "temporarily relieved" as AFP deputy chief of staff for logistics or J-4 as the AFP "can move to conduct its own investigation into the alleged irregularities in the purchase of petroleum oil and lubricants."

"It is no accepted practice in the military ... to relieve the commander of the unit or office being investigated in order to pave the way for an impartial and honest investigation," Oban said.

Illegal conversion

He said members of the AFP's Judge Advocate General, Internal Audit and the Provost Marshal General had been tapped to look into the reported illegal conversion of hundreds of millions of pesos in gas allowances for several AFP units.

Oban assured the affected military officers that the investigators "will not only (focus) on persons, but also on the (AFP's) regular management systems as a whole."

"We are confident that all the facts will be considered and evaluated in an impartial manner. The results will be fair and just," Obanazad.

Commodore Miguel Jose Rodriguez, AFP spokesperson, said Col. Julius Guillermo was designated to replace Paz in an acting capacity.

According to Rodriguez, Paz will return to his post once the military investigation clear him of any wrongdoing.

He said the alleged conversion of military funds for petroleum products "only came from the media."

He said the AFP was unsure of the amount or period when the supposed conversion of funds was committed.

The report on the conversion of some P400 million to gas allowances for AFP units stemmed a "preposterous" amount, Rodriguez said.

Preposterous amount

"That's why we're investigating it. We don't know yet if the media reports are true because nobody has come forward to refuse that it indeed happened," he said.

"The allegation only came from media which quoted some unnamed sources. We don't know the intentions of those who supposedly provided the information."

The AFP was recently linked in a nationwide poll as "the most corrupt" government agency following the revelations of former military budget officer George Rabusa about a systemic military slush fund for high-ranking officers, including some chiefs of staff.

Last week, Rabusa disclosed a few are beating due to loans his former military chiefs received hundreds of millions of pesos as "pasalubong" (service gift) and "pahinan" (send-off gift).

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TELEPERFORMANCE WINS "BPO EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Paris – April 19, 2011 – Teleperformance, the world's leading provider of outsourced customer experience management, is pleased to announce that it was awarded the "BPO Employer of the Year" during the Fifth Annual International ICT Awards – Philippines 2011. The award was accepted by David Rizzo, Teleperformance's President of the Asia Pacific region at an event held recently in Metro Manila.

Oscar Salvo, CEO of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP), stated, "Teleperformance is the company that best exemplified excellence to earn this award. The criteria we used to determine the winner is multi-dimensional and rigorous to say the least. I was particularly impressed with both the scope and depth of Teleperformance's excellent Human Resources programs. They use comprehensive HR metrics to track and manage performance far beyond the norm we usually see. The degree of employee involvement integrated into Teleperformance HR programs and their overall operating environment is exceptional. All of these factors make a positive difference between just being good and being great. We congratulate Teleperformance on this outstanding achievement."

"Being the BPO Employer of the Year is a special honor," said **David Rizzo, President of the Asia Pacific Region for Teleperformance.** "It inspires all of us to stay completely focused on the well-being of our people, our clients and the communities where we live and work. We also recognize that because we are the global leader, we have a special obligation to help advance our industry as a whole by raising the performance bar. As one of the largest employers in the world, we thank the organizers for recognizing our passion, efforts and results."

Daniel Julien, Chairman of the Board of Teleperformance, added, "We are both honored and humbled by this award which is mainly based on human factors. In fact, we work in an industry that does not always carry a favorable people management reputation. And so we see this international recognition as a validation of our efforts to set a new industry benchmark - both as employers and as socially responsible global citizens. We understand that our people are our greatest strength. There is a direct correlation between happy people who know they are valued and producing consistently excellent results for our clients. I again thank the organizers on behalf of the entire Teleperformance family – we know there is much more to be done and we remain fully committed to being a great place to work."

About Teleperformance: TELEPERFORMANCE (NYSE Euronext Paris: FR 0000051807), the world's leading provider of outsourced customer experience management, has been serving companies around the world rolling out customer acquisition, customer care, technical support and debt collection programs on their behalf. In 2010, the Teleperformance Group reported €2.358 billion in revenue (US$2.718 billion based on an exchange rate of €1 = US$1.33). The Group operates about 83,000 computerized workstations, with more than 120,000 employees across 288 contact centers in 50 countries and conducts programs in more than 88 different languages and dialects on behalf of major international companies operating in various industries.

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Across the NATION

21 schools in C. Visayas to hike tuition

By Jhaynes Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Parents in Central Visayas are bracing another round of tuition increase this school year, which opens in June.

At least 21 private elementary and secondary schools in region seven will adjust their tuition fees one percent to 33 percent, according to the Department of Education regional office (DepEd-7).

Major universities in Cebu and Bohol also informed the Commission in Higher Education (Ched) of plans to increase their tuition by five to 10 percent.

Dr. Bernardo Bergania, DepEd-7 director, said his department could not stop the schools from adjusting their tuition once they had complied with all the requirements.

These include letter of intent to raise the tuition, consultation with students and parents, certification of the consultation, and certification of how the schools utilized the previous tuition fee increase, among others.

Bergania said the hike in school fees could trigger migration of students to public schools.

Among the schools that will increase their tuition are St Vincent Institute, Lalong Christian School, Capitol Commons IDA Elementary School, Gabriel Aznar Foundation School Inc., Sto. Tomas College, Mother Seraphina Learning Center and Montessori Christian School.

The others are Pope John Paul II Achievement Learning Center, University of Cebu Lapu-Lapu-Mandaue, University of San Jose Recoletos (USJR), St. Bernard School, Wese of Peace, Tinero Cansule House of Learning, Don Calleja to Negros Oriental's Italian Ring Academy, St. Joseph Academy, Colegio de la Medalla Milagrosa, Holy Child Academy, Sta. Monica Institute, University of Bohol (UB) and VEP Senior (Accelerated Learning Center for ES), all included.

At least six major universities in Cebu and Bohol will increase their tuition in June although a few schools decided to keep their rate so as not to burden the parents suffering from the rising cost of commodities.

Among those are the USJR, University of San Carlos, University of Southern Philippine Foundation, University of the Visayas, University of Cebu, and Ichon College in Cebu and UB in Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

There two would go up to five percent to 10 percent.

But the fourth Recoletos University and Cebu Roosevelt University in Cebu and ELT International College in Bohol decided not to increase.

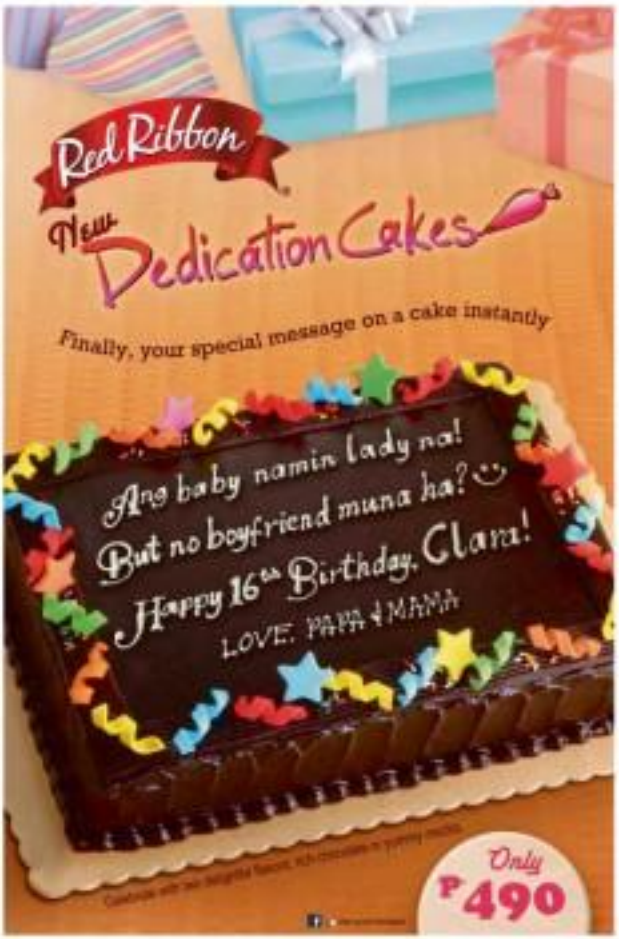
The universities that are increasing their rates will only have to submit the requirements and could commence the implement the adjustment in June.

Among the requirements are letter of intent to raise tuition, certificate of compliance of the previous increase, certificate of attended compliance, comparative schedule of tuition fees for current school year and the proposed increase for ensuing school year with differences in peso and percentage terms, consultation with the students, parents, faculty and staff, and non-teaching staff, list of officers of its student council, certificate of the consultation and financial statement of the school.

The deadline was in March 31.

Aaron Pedrosa, secretary-general of Freedom from Debt Coalition in Cebu said private schools should realize that due to the bad economic conditions, most parents would have difficulty sending their children to school.

He said there was also no guarantee of any wage increase amid the rising costs of basic commodities, fuel and fare of public utility vehicles.



Davao grieves loss of activist

DAVAO CITY—Executives continue to grieve over the death of prominent businessman and rubdown figure Jesus "Chito" Ayala.

Ayala, considered an icon of the People Power revolution, died on Tuesday night after a lingering renal problem that caused other health complications. His remains were cremated Wednesday.

Ayala was 62.

The businessman was hospitalized Sunday due to a debilitating health condition.

Journalist Sean Lumawag, a friend of Ayala, said his demise was not only the loss of his family and friends but also of "those who sought for change in the government."

"The country has lost one good man who had a vision of what the Philippines must be," said Lumawag.

Mayor Inno Dominguez also said his family and the city in general "grieves over his death."

Ayala was among the late president Ferdinand Marcos's close comedians.

"He was one of those who led the forces in Davao, those who defied the forces of Marcos, at great peril to his safety and his family," said veteran journalist Antonio Ayala.

A few days before the Edsa revolt, Ayala was preparing the city to become a staging point for civil disobedience, according to Sison.

He and Ayala banded with Marcos activities.

When Cory took over the government, she designated Ayala as supervisor the private sector in the Regional Development Task Force, the forerunner of the Regional Development Councils.

Ayala, a lawyer, was chair of the JVA Group of Companies, which operates John Renan Park and Resort and the popular entertainment and commercial center Marian Plaza in Davao.

He was married to Dr. Nita, who is his first love Aldwin. Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

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A child plays under four a-frame wall they carried from afar to raise as the trees they planted will survive. The activity dubbed "Station of the Tree" was held to commemorate Earth Day.

Indigenous trees planted during 'Stations of Trees'

By Cris Evert B. Lim
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Shield Joy Rasos, 10, woke up excited at 5 a.m. on Good Friday.

It was her first time to join a tree planting activity with more than 300 people from various fields, who chose to spend their Good Friday in the mountain village of Guba.

"I asked Papa to make me up because this is an exciting activity for me. I can pray and exercise at the same time," the incoming Grade 6 pupil of Cebu Smallfield School told the Inquirer.

"Mental exercise the steep mountain slopes of Sitio Cantores II in Barangay Guba with her father, Jonathan, by her side to participate in the "Stations of the Trees."

The first in the country, Cebu City Councilor Nida Cabrera said the Stations of the Trees was planned to commemorate Earth Day through a contemplative and reflective event, echoing somewhere on Good Friday.

At least 14 indigenous tree species were planted by more than 300 volunteers in the City Government-led activity.

One tree corresponds to one Station of the Cross. Those trees are tanzubike, tubag (Broussonetia papyra), banlad (Dioscorea philippinensis), anonang, halumoy, dukdoy, mango, dancur (Dipterocarpus kunstleri), malubok, banagbang, amugis, tanumbal, bai, jackfruit and others.

"Fr. Tito Zoquiño, executive director of Sts. Niño de Cebu Augustinian Social Development Foundation, led the congregation in saying a prayer for every station.

"The tree is the perfect symbol of reflection for this activity. We remember how God created his sons to Calvary and today we are planting trees to signify life... Ma mo jud ko sa kai for the future generation," he explained.

He said it was not a coincidence that the activity was held in the mountain village of Guba (which also means to destroy in Cebuano).

"Our journey this morning somewhere resembles Christ carrying his cross to Mount Golgotha. But this morning's activity tells us the message of resurrection. This is where the Cebuanos will be resurrected," he said.

Organizers moved from the usual 14 stations and put up a 15th station, where volunteers planted a mocudal (Artocarpus) and ritidu (bolbol) banana and sweet potato.

Zoquiño said the Agape (Greek word for love) station reminds participants that unity and sharing are values expressed in the planting participated by representatives from business, government and civil society.

This is where Nora Concepcion finds the "value of creation" to spending Good Friday outside Manila, where she lives and works.

"The environmentalists of Cebu share a very good example that a religious activity can be married with a religious cause," said Concepcion, community partnerships manager of Smart Communications.

Lawyer Gerlie Lorraine Ramos, co-director of Philippine Earth Justice Center, said the planting was also a call to action for different members of the society to get involved.

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Pre-Convention Events

May 1, Sunday - (9 - 7 AM) PCPF: RUN WITH DOCTORS

(8 AM - 12 NN) - Session with PHIC & DOH

(8.30 - 11 AM) - INTM: "State of Antimicrobial Resistance in the Philippines: 'ID, Aerobic Bacterial Pathogens, HIV & Malaria'"

(1 - 4 PM) - De-Mystifying Lupus

Scientific Meetings/Sessions

A.S. Bloom Memorial Lecture - May 3, Tuesday - (9.30 - 10:15 AM): "The Doctor on the Front Line in Disaster & Crisis Management"

Plenary Sessions

May 2, Monday - (8.00 - 8:45 AM) - "MSM, Autoimmune Syndromes Induced by Adjuvants"

(8.45 - 10:15AM) - "The ASEAN Internist and Patient Bridging Regional Gaps and Harmonizing Differences"

May 3, Tuesday - (8:00 - 8:45 AM) - "I.M. IN CHARGE: Bringing Out the Internist in a Subspecialist"

(8.45 - 9.30 AM) - "Internist 24/7: Medical Care Beyond Clinic & Hospital Settings"

May 4 , Wednesday - (8.45 - 9.30 AM) - "Vaccinating Adults: Worthy or Worthless"

(9.30 - 10.15 AM) - "Changing Landscape of the Doctor-Pharmaceutical Relationship: What Should We Know and Expect"

Convention Symposia

May 2, Monday - (10.30 AM - 12 NN)
"CAD & Cardiovascular Disease"
"Autoimmunity: Un Common Grounds & Triggers"
"Much to Do with Ethics for the Internist"

May 3, Tuesday - (10.30 AM - 12 NN)
"ID Emergencies in the Nick of Time"
"Nutrition and Lifestyle"
"Viromia-Consults on Illness and Disease"

May 4, Wednesday - (10.30 AM - 12 NN)
"Lung Infections: Approaching Severe CAP & HCAP"
"Elderly Matters"
"Lines & Kinks with Healthcare Work"

Breakout Sessions

May 2, Monday - (1.30 - 3PM)
"PSP: Dilemmas in Clinical Practice"
"CAP: All about CM"
"CDI: Bloody Issues in Hematology"
"DxTx: Rheumatology for the Internist"
"AIM: I am an Internist, I.M. POP"

(3.30 - 5 PM)
"PSP: Handling Common GI Problems"
"CAP: A Look into the Internist's Role in Perioperative Management"
"CDI: Cost-effective Outpatient Mgt. of Common Infections"
"DxTx: Nonmalignant Dyscrasias in the ICU"
"IP: Internist's Problems... For a Start"

May 3, Tuesday - (3.30 - 5 PM)
"PSP: What Works Best for Patients with Cancer Handling Lung & Breast Malignancies"
"CAP: A Look into Obesity"
"CDI: 4 Pts. in the Patient's Eye"
"DxTx: Handling New Problems in Nephrology"
"AIM: Patient Partner: Valuing Patient Inputs in Rheumatologic Diseases"

May 4, Wednesday - (1.30 - 3PM)
"PSP: Facts and Fallacies in ID: Resolving Controversies in Managing Common Infectious Problems"
"CAP: Targeted Therapies for Cancer & Rheumatologic Diseases"
"CDI: Immunotherapy & Desensitization"
"To Breathlessness"

Late Breaker Session

May 4, Wednesday - (8.00 - 8.40 AM) - "The Philippines Readiness to the Fukushima Nuclear Fallout"

PHYSICIANS CARING FOR THE FILIPINOS

Rising to the call for new nationalistic and compassionate means citizens, the Philippine College of Physicians is at the forefront of addressing pressing health issues in the broader context of the ever-changing social, cultural and economic landscape. The PCP is not simply a professional organization of doctors and specialists in internal medicine for adults and the elderly nor was it founded solely to address medical issues affecting physicians and the practice of medicine.

It is an organization of physicians and clinical experts in diverse disciplines and subspecialties in internal medicine devoted to public service above gain. The PCP has been actively advocating for the promotion and preservation of human health and wellbeing through the prevention and control of diseases that affect the majority of Filipinos. It is committed to the promotion of a better quality of life for Filipinos. It has inspired its whole membership—fellows, diplomates, and medical residents—to seek and to provide advocacies that empower not only health care workers but also the community in determining and implementing solutions to health problems. PCP has been engaged in initiatives and partnerships in projects with several government agencies—DoH, DepEd, DepED, DENR—and organizations such as BHCI, PhilHealth, Philippine Red Cross, Philippine Blood Center and NGOs. It even works in partnership with the Philippine media through its weekly Health Forum.

This year's convention theme "Views & Cues: Navigating the Maze in Internal Medicine" promises to be exciting examinations over important problems that has been frequently encountered by physicians inside their clinics and in their community services. The scientific meetings will discuss options and interventions that are quite good and cost-effective as well as issues and barriers in the delivery of quality healthcare service in the management of the patient's health complaints.

As a founding member of the ASEAN Federation of Internal Medicine, PCP has continually promoted the highest standards of professional practice in internal medicine that is world class and globally competitive. In the light of ASEAN harmonization and One ASEAN by 2015, the PCP has actively participated in international dialogues to facilitate the free country practice of internal medicine in the region that stands to benefit all the member countries of ASEAN.

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Relic of Christ's cross a must for Visita Iglesia

By Jo Marinas Clemeno
Reporter Central Luzon

SAN JOSE, Tarlac—Every day but more so during the Lenten season, the Catholic faithful visit the Monumento de Tarlac in this town. Established at the monastery's Church of the Risen Christ is the sacred relic of the true cross upon which Jesus Christ was crucified and died. The reliquary is known to be the only one in Asia.

Located in Barangay Lubigan in San Jose, some 20 km from Tarlac City, the church is one of the important churches to visit in a Lenten Visita Iglesia in central and northern Luzon.

To reach the site, visitors pass through an uphill road that ends in view of the province's highest peaks within the 674-hectare Tarlac Recreation Park. The monastery was cited by the Department of Tourism as the most revered pilgrimage site in Central Luzon, on account of its spiritual prominence.

The relic of Christ's cross found its way to Tarlac through Father Arnold Thomas Cornio, Prior of the Servants of the Risen Christ, a monastic congregation of brothers who has vowed to live a monastic and contemplative life.

The relic found a new home in Tarlac as an aftermath of what was described as a radical transformation. In Europe due to the advent of communism where churches were closed to give way to museums and warehouses.

Offer

In 2005, a German priest, Msgr. Volker Bauer, met Cornio during the World Youth Day celebrations and offered to give the sacred relic to the Philippine church.

On Jan. 29, 2007, Bauer flew in with the relic and brought it first to Pampanga and finally to the Monumento de Tarlac for dedication. The event was led by the papal nuncio to the Philippines, Most Rev. Fernando Filoni, and Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinense.

At Tarlac's Church of the Risen Christ where the relic is enshrined, incumbent atop the altar are the Latin words "hoc Crux, Spes Unica." This means "Hail, the Holy Cross, Our Only Hope."

Every Sept. 14 when the entire Christian community celebrates the anniversary of the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and for which the Vatican officially named the day in 1962 as the feast of the Triumph of the Cross, the church opens the silver casket containing the relic for public veneration.

Other notable Catholic churches to visit in Central Luzon are Pampanga's labor-limited San Guillermo Church in Bacolor town, which was built by the Augustinian friars in 1576, and the St. James the Great Parish Church in Guagua, known as the "Staircase Chapel of the Philippines," because of the 62 paintings on its ceiling.

Bataan

Bataan offers the historic Hermosa Church in the City of Balanga, 400-year-old Sto. Monica Church in Angat, the St. Lawrence the Martyr Church built in Balagtas in the 18th century, the St. Augustine Church, which has a huge plaza in Bulacan, the St. Martin of Tours Church built in 1606 in Orion, the Our Lady of the Assumption Church (1578) in Bulacan, the Sto. Niño Church in Bocaue and the St. Gabriel the Archangel Church (1572) in Calumpit.

In Olongapo City, the San Roque chapel in side the Subic Bay Freeport has allowed spiritual guidance to the community. The chapel was built in 1932 to replace the dilapidated church put up by Spanish missionaries.

During World War II, the Japanese used the Subic Naval Station as garrison and the chapel as a stable for horses. After the war in 1945, the chapel was reconstructed and renovated under the supervision of base chaplain Lt. Water J. Davis.

In Pangasinan, pilgrims flock to the Our Lady of Manaoag Church and the more than 400-year-old St. James the Great Church in Bolinao. The shrine of the Our Lady of Namacpacan is a prime attraction in Luna, La Union.

Baguio City has the Our Lady of Atonement Cathedral (Baguio Cathedral) where most tourists spending their Holy Week break in the summer capital flock to fulfill their religious obligations.

Rizal

The Rizal province have many centuries-old churches but tourists and pilgrims flock to the St. Paul Cathedral in Pigan City and the Antipolo Shrine Church in Rizal province.

The San Agustin Church, also in Rizal province, is among the World Heritage Sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Notable among the centuries-old church is in Bacoor, Cavite are the St. Augustin Church in Panay, also a World Heritage Site, and the Sta. Monica Cathedral in Sariaya.

The Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Piat in Cagayan also attracts pilgrims and devotees, especially during Lent. In Isabela, the St. Matthias church in Tumauini town and the Our Lady of Aranaz Church in Alicia town are among the best churches to visit for a Holy Week pilgrimage. With reports from Germelito Reyes-Estropia, Jun Abalaj, Susette Orozco and Robert Ostiangco, Inquirer Central Luzon; and Yolanda Sarabia and Alfonso Vinuya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Sculptor nurtures art, faith in Betis

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

GUAGUA, Pampanga—Filipino sculptor Wilfredo Layug has won two consistent currents in his life in Seville, Spain. The first is artistic; the other spiritual.

The first he sought by way of apparently easily understood means but would leave some with degree in ecclesiastical art. Layug, says National Artist Napoleon Abueva, imbibed the lessons of ecclesiastical art in Europe, making him the first artist to introduce its finer techniques in the Philippines.

The second unfolded in late through the Semana Santa de Sevilla in Spain, inspiring what he calls a "pasaje" [vow]. By joining the "hermandad" (brotherhood) of Santa Cruz there, Layug is thought to be the first Filipino to take membership in associations of all Spanish Catholic lay persons, artisans that dates back to the 16th century.

Playing an important part in his life in 2007 in Seville's Sto. Cafe Bistro, where his first mentor, Jose Antonio Navarro Arteaga, taught him gilding, gold leafing, "encaustic" (a technique of "embossing" on wood) and poly chromado (painting the face of a religious figure or carving). While his flesh, these craftsmen-dude images look alive, expressive and elaborate.

Betis also happened to be the host town of Layug's creative Gaugin, one of the oldest constituencies in Pampanga. Originally a cluster of six villages that retained Spanish colonial rule after the fall of Tarik Sulieman (Rambulan of Macabebe), Betis grew into a bailiwick of strong Catholic faith through Augustine architects.

Growing up in Pampanga's Betis, Layug thinks his spiritual growth came first through his mother, Edia, forcing for paintings on the ceilings and walls of St. James Church gave lessons in catechism. At 5 years old, he modeled figurines of saints from clay he gathered at the river bank. At eight, he drew religious icons and frescoes.

When Layug began wood carving at age 13, he devised from what most craftsmen carving his talents do in the village of Sta. Ursula.

He could not follow his father Alfonso's footsteps because the craft was dying. When Alfonso stalled as stalking furniture by learning from Bernabe, brother of sculptor and painter Juan Flores, Layug entered into that he parents sold at the then Clark Air Base.

At 13, he started making religious images, giving those the "hopping frame" or "near an expat" look. He had to earn to help send his younger siblings to school.

His first break came when he was 17 when he created a bas relief of a replica of Santiago Matamoros at the gate of Iloy Santiago. His creation of Holy Week images began with those Teodoro Bonifacio Jose Aquino.

"Inspired and he wanted to make a state Seville in Spain [La Union]," Layug says. "That was the first time I heard of Seville."

The resurrection of that Inspain Seville, in 1983. Due to sinking political and economic turmoil, and the eventual exile of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his family left Layug and his wife Florentina looking empty-handed.

Unpaid bills to them by the government amounted to P500,000, a big sum in 1986. With no contracts coming, he and his family subsisted mainly on Kapihang Gawang Kabayan's A cast of sacrifices was a luxury.

His career picked up in 1987 when he made the altar of his Dominga Church in Quezon City. That led to new work contracts.

Since 1998, priests have been commissioning Layug to make "mobile" (mobilized) species of images of saints behind the major altars, including that of the Sto. Niño Church in Tondo, Manila, for a papal visit in 2005.

FOR ECCLESIASTICAL artist Wilfredo Layug, faith and talent should emerge and be deepened together

Layug, a fine arts graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, traveled around Europe starting 1999 to observe churches to improve his skills in making crucifix.

Seville

But Seville, he says, is constantly on his mind. He wanted to appreciate but has not established contacts, much less references, nor learned Spanish.

The late Rev. Fr. Andrew Gonzales, former parish secretary and De La Salle University president, helped make that happen.

Joey Pandilla, museum consultant of De La Salle Dasmariñas, met with Layug to commission him for an image of St. La Salle, co-founder ordered.

Layug did it for free, but with a condition: Pandilla was to refer him to Spain's Instituto Cervantes. The institute's director, Rafael Gallun, endorsed him to bishops.

Settings did not only become a mission. Despite the language divide, he became a friend.

"I joined the humanized [of] Seville, founded in 1604, with (Arzobispo's endorsement)," says Layug.

The "joints" (images) of the brotherhood, home on grand floats, are brought on Holy Tuesday to the cathedral after a procession that lasts seven hours or more because of the huge crowd of devotees and curious that flock the city. Calle Betis is 45 minutes by foot to the cathedral and 46 hermandades take turns joining the procession, up to La Macarena (Good Friday) and Esperanza Triunfo.

"I am humbled to be received in the hermandad. Even as brother-start young, a truth that is very pronounced during the investiture," he says.

Layug returned to Seville in 2005 and 2006, joining the Holy Week rites again after apprenticeship with more sculptors and painters.

Today, Layug's Serpentia Betis has deepened my faith and devotion ... They shrouds does barrage to ecclesiastical art and they've dreams. Dave Lozano: "I see you, they start practicing for the next year's rites," he says.

Life stories for kids . . .

Pang-pagkaArt

The bartender read "Bangon ge ng mga Bituloy," a book written by 17-year-old Onyanaria Sevilla Aining, a student from Bongao, Tawi-tawi. The story is about the friends of Filipinos deported from Malaysia.

Aining was also present during the read-along to assist Salazar, opening the pages of her book.

"I really admire young children, whether literate or illiterate, who came up with books. Fil, real stories, and it is touching to see the kids listen to the stories," Salazar said.

Before last session, 13-year-old Ronald Castillo read "El Mendigo (The Beggar)," which he converse with Brother Sigh school students Suryana Adilan and Bini Sandra Ibali.

It tells the true story of a boy who begs around Zamboanga City's Sun Else.

Salazar insisted the read-along session should "be replicated in other places."

She also commend to your music Inside for the school's organizers, "so it will not just come in Grades 1 to 4 students, but also to Grades 5 to 6."

But teacher Dolcida, the read-along and the bartender's presentation stories "helps for our schoolchildren."

The young listeners, however, had a different concern.

Adalicia was excited to bring home a school bag, toys and books. "I will read stories to my mother and siblings."

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Big books from Mindanao children

By Fritzie L. Lim
Iligan City

INDEED, one should not judge a book by its cover—especially if it's 5-feet-by-3-feet big. Also, do not mind if the book is at least 3 kilograms heavy. Just pay more weight on its content.

These are at least 10 big books written and illustrated by children in Mindanao, telling stories of their communities, experiences and dreams.

Started by the private Ilds for Peace Foundation, the books are categorized as "Mindanao Tales," "Peace Pieces" and the "Youth Stories (The Ways of War)."

The Mindanao Tales are stories of legends handed down by the elders from one generation to the other. The Peace Pieces, on the other hand, are books on the children's experiences of war and their struggle for peace.

One of the Peace Pieces, the "Sing Daigong Iligan (written by Ina Sajudi)," was read by actor Bubbe Dalilla in an Inquirer Read-Along session in Maguindanao years ago.

The Youth Stories learn 11 books collection that mirrors the experiences of its authors, who are young people, enslaved presently, resistance, internal fusion, displacement due to economic aggression and other issues which have stoked the flames of conflict and war in Mindanao.

The Book Stories tackle issues like child labor, displacement due to war and evacuation, injustices, as well as lack of access to education and the effect of wars on a family, among others.

Nature's ways

Some of the stories also talk about the price humans pay when they attempt to alter nature's or woo her selfish ends.

Such story is Joan Cris Comedor's "Sa Pangil ng Kidlatan," a fictionalized account of the documented incredible attack that killed a schoolgirl from a floating community in the Agusan Marsh in the Caraga region in 2009.

Comedor, 23, a councilor of the municipality of La Paz, one of several river towns near the marsh, says residents in the community believe the incident was nature's way of teaching a lesson to people for abusing the environment.

"The sad thing is, nature does not discriminate when she seeks revenge for human' abuses ... The story and the incident itself teach us that there are really things in nature which humans should not interfere with, much less disrespect," she says.

Agusthon Bangsamin's "Ning-Ning Nu?" is an amusing tale of two Grade 4 pupils who barely made it to their school's flag ceremonies and eventually skipped classes for helping their parents in the farm.

The author is a 22-year old "kemal" (indigenous people) of the Maranao tribe in Sultan Kudarat.

Standard issues

The classic tale of land grabbing is seen from a young boy's eyes in Lalu Reyes' "May Araw sa Tuwing Pista." It tells a story of a family (and a community) forced out of their own land following the entry of a large pineapple company.

The sad fate of Filipinos who opted to settle in Sabah, Malaysia, only to be deported back to the Philippines in cramped, humid and decrepit boats and vessels" are sentiments in their former communities is the correct slogan of Dayamata Antiqui "Bangsoro gor ng mga kimabay."

The poignant tale (and realization) was written by a 17-year old Tausug girl who used to live at the very plight of the deportees.

Other stories in the collection include "Sa Harap ng Walang Katapusang Dagundat" and "El Bandigo" by Arnold Custodio, 16, maryana Jakilim, 15, and Mitt Saweza Isah, 16; Caryl Sagu's "Indam na Pangarap"; "Binubusgkal na Pamilya" by Lurie Lubing; Sarah Joy Quijano's "Tubong Ilanan's Sa Kidlatan Nahuli"; Jimelinda Bago's "Hanapuya Ng Lawa" and the collaborative "Ang Hirap Papuwang Kampo," which tells about the participants' expectations, issues and enlightenment as to their resolve in fostering unity and cooperation among Mindanao's 18 people—the Muslims, Lumads and Christians—at attaining peace.

But due to lack of funds, only three of the 10 big books have found their way to publishing to standard book form.

Still, there's no stopping these children from writing and illustrating.

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ARMED Carolito, 15, reads "El Bandigo," a book he commerwrote with Roberto Jakilim and Bim Sali, during the Inquirer Read-Along in Salam Primary School in Zamboanga City.

Life stories for kids in Zamboanga City

By Julie S. Alipala
Zamboanga City

THOUGHTS of listening to stories and possibly taking home a book pushed over 50 pupils to show up at Salam Primary School at the remote interior and remotest part of Barangay San Roque in Zamboanga City on a Saturday.

Reclinely Gabitin, 9, trekked downhill for half an hour to reach the small school and be part of the Inquirer's Read-Along session joint by storytellers with the office of Rep. Maria Isabela Climaco Salazar.

"I very much wanted to hear good stories," Salabit said in Filipino.

Like her, Shemine Vicente, 14, skipped his usual snack, and stay with his parents. "I am excited to hear more new stories," he said in Chavacano.

The school is a multi-grade level, three-room facility on a hill, 2 kilometers from the village center.

Multi-grade setup

Erwin Deleria, one of the two teachers handling multi-grade levels, said only about 60 pupils of Muslim lineage and Tausugs, Subanens and Christians go to the school.

"We have pupils who speak Sinuyan, Tagalog and Chavacano, but they all interact perfectly well," Deleria said.

Most children would have attended, he explained, but "due to poverty, most of the kids are forced to work as a young age."

"Life here is very hard, the children have to walk long hours to reach this school," Deleria said.

Salazar, the first district representative who is more known as "Bing," said she got emotional when she witnessed how the children, despite the limitations of encounter inside a classroom and at home, showed up.

Touching hope

"It was really very touching for me to see that children is remove areas can show so much great interest in education. I am really impressed to see how kids are eager to follow the stories' flow, answer all the questions," she said.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Hope

EDITORIAL

THESE ARE truly the times that try the Filipino soul, to paraphrase Thomas Paine. Now more than ever, the circumstances attached to everyday life in these islands have grown more treacherous than ever.

All you need to do is look around. More Filipinos than ever are hungry, as a recent report revealed. The prices of petroleum products have risen to unforeseen levels, leading to a call for higher vehicular fares, something that will burden the average Filipino commuter. Three of our countrymen were executed in China for acting as drug mules, a tragedy that threatens to touch other Filipinos in captivity around the world. Our overseas workers find their lives threatened by natural and nuclear disasters in Japan as well as military conflicts in North Africa and the Middle East. A 6-year-old boy groans while crying on nationwide TV and people actually see nothing wrong with it. Multibillion-peso scandals bedevil the armed forces even as the insurgency still casts its shadow, wasting lives and turning the populations of entire villages into refugees. There is a move to bury a former dictator in the graves meant for our greatest heroes. Prices of basic goods kept going up and the daily wage can't keep up.

These are the kind of things that we had hoped would be done away with when we came out in amazing numbers to vote Benigno Aquino III as president. We believed that he represented a new brand of leadership and a new kind of governance. We dreamed of a better Philippines.

Now, that hope might be dimming. Filipinos might be brooding over the present and the future. In the Social Weather Stations' most recent survey, conducted from March 4 to 7, 36 percent said their lives had actually gotten worse during the last 12 months while only 23 percent said it had improved; this was a clear drop from the numbers tallied last November. Respondents said they particularly lost confidence in the economy, as the "net optimism" rating of plus 4 is also an obvious drop from the plus 38 recorded in the November survey.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect was how current events here and abroad may have caused so much uncertainty and not eroding Filipinos' personal optimism. SWS found that 51 percent, up from 7 percent in November, of respondents don't expect their lives to get better in the next 12 months, while the percentage of those who see things improving is down to 35 from 45 in November. Proof that across the board, from Luzon to Mindanao, hope is indeed slipping among Filipinos of all creed and circumstance.

The Holy Week just past, during which the Christian world recalled the Passion of Christ, gave us a perfect opportunity for introspection about pain and suffering, some used the occasion to raise social awareness of, and call for a more concrete response to what Fr. Jerry Orbos in his column today described as "the reality ... that a lot of people are suffering around us."

After the solemn week of prayer and penitence comes this day, Easter Sunday, a most joyous time celebrating Jesus' triumph over sin and death. Easter reminds us that however grim the past may be, the blessing that is a new beginning is within reach of each one of us. Easter carries with it a message of hope telling us that, by God's grace, man has the power to change things for the better, to rise even from the worst of circumstances.

But we cannot remain passive. So the entire country returns to the business of everyday survival, we can entertain no faltering that the administration we voted into office has what it takes to transform Filipino society into something better. We have to exercise the courage to stand up for our aspirations. We know that we have always possessed the resilience to do the right thing, having survived various occupations in the past, even finding the common ground to start not one but two corrupt presidents. Surely we can find it in ourselves to do our part in the big picture.

Let this then be the Easter of our own lives as Filipinos. From every barrel and house, from every street and skyscraper, we pray to whatever divinity we believe in. We continue to hope. We must keep on dreaming of something better. But we must do our part.

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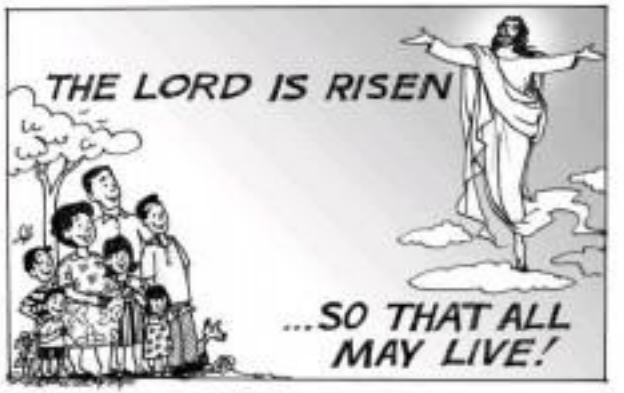

Noli me tangere

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

MOST FILIPINOS will recognize the Latin phrase "Noli me tangere" as the title of Jose Rizal's first novel, rather than as a biblical line from the gospel of St. John (20:17). In English, it is usually rendered as "Touch me not." This was what the risen Jesus told the startled Mary Magdalene when she first approached him of whom he had called her name. The meaning of this encounter has been the subject of much dispute, not least because it appears only in Aramaic not in the other gospels.

When I have her apparent Christ to his disciples, Jesus invited the doubting Thomas to touch his wounds. He would not allow Mary, whom Jesus had awarded no confirmation, to hold him. Why? Was it because she was a woman and not one of the original disciples, and therefore unworthy of touching the divine? Or was it because "noli me tangere" meant something else other than "do not touch me"?

Curiously, Rizal's particular use of this phrase as the title of his novel might give us a better understanding of its meaning. Fernando Ner, in a field among my father when "noli me tangere" means. He had come home one day with a freshly printed hardbound edition of Charles Derbyshire's translation titled "The social cancer." Possibly, he presented it to me as if it was the most precious book in the world, convincing every relative in that enchanting phrase "noli me tangere." He wanted it as if it was a magical incantation. "What language is it?" I asked him. "Latin for 'touch me not'," he replied. What's that got to do with cancer, I pressed, pointing to the English title of the book. He answered: "The cancer of our society is Rizal's time was already to advanced that no doctor would touch it anymore."

That perspective stayed with me throughout my first early reading of the text, my father clearly took the cancer analogy from Rizal's own prefatory dedication, "To my country." In it, Rizal had written: "Invested in the tunics of leprosy and the rags are covered of rash and pustules darkened that even minor critics' appetizers

darts, engendering overwhelming pain.... Therefore, because I desire your good health.... I will do with you what the patients did with their infirmed: they placed their cancer scraps of their samples so that rash in his case may could twelve adversity that might offer a cure." (From it, Augustinian's translation)

But if the definitive institution of the society as a severely diseased, and wounded body was all that Rizal had wished to call attention to, other lines from the Bible could have done just as well. A suitable candidate would have been Jesus' loud cry on the ninth hour as he was hanging from the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Or "Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit."

Later in life, I had a chance to re-read Rizal's novel in the context of his other writings. I came to realize that the national hero was not merely dissecting the malignant cause of Philippine society under Spanish rule. He was also heralding the emergence of a new nation from the decadence of colonial society. He was not calling upon a god who would offer a cure for upon a people that, he hoped, would redeem it from its miserable state.

Resistance was Rizal's intent more than once in Rizal's sharp polemic against the Spanish writer Vicente Barrantes, who had published an essay attacking Rizal and claiming the ideology of his novel. In response to Barrantes, Rizal wrote: "We, I have deplored the social sores of 'my' fatherland: in it are 'yes, sirisms and mahoneys' and it is because I see much infamy in my country there the benefactors' equal to assassins the caudillos.... There is indeed much corruption over there, maybe more than anywhere else, but it is because so the self-constituted have been added the dross of birds of passage and the serpents that the sea deposits on the beach. And because of the existence of this corruption, I have written my Noli me tangere, I ask for reforms in class the little good that there is may be saved and the bad may be eliminated."

The complete Latin sentence from which Rizal had lifted the title of his novel was, "Dixit et Jesus ei: Noli me tangere: nondum enim ascendi ad Patrem meum." The Vulgate (translational) version of the Bible translates it thus: "Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to my Father.'" "To me hold on to me" is vastly different in meaning from "Do not touch me." In other versions, the phrase is rendered more clearly as "Do not cling to me." This seems to me to indicate that as a human being, Jesus indeed died, and rose from the grave, but had not yet at that point ascended to heaven. The important thing is that he had conquered death. Addressing himself to Mary Magdalene, Jesus continues, "Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'."

I have a strong sense that Rizal understood "noli me tangere" in precisely this sense. The patient, Philippine society, has in it as its way to spiritual rebirth. Rizal tells his readers, Spaniards and Filipinos alike, not to cling to its sinful ways. Let it go (other, and let it find its redemption. So from grieving or merely lamenting the country's sorry state, Rizal was reminding us all to action.

In Luke's narration, the two Marys were on the tomb early on the day after Sabbath, bringing with them spices with which to anoint Jesus' body. They could not find his corpse. Instead, they encountered two men in gleaming clothes seated by the empty tomb who told them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" (Luke 24:6)

Randy David
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He's alive!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

LAST MARCH 30, 2011, I stopped to bless a bloodied, unconscious person lying on the road. He had figured in a motorcycle accident under the Guadalupe Bridge in Makati City. As I was blessing him aloud, imagine my surprise when suddenly, he opened his eyes, looked at me, and said, "Fr. Jerry! Fr. Jerry Orbos! You are on TV!" That was one "resurrection moment" I will never forget, for without it I thought was dead was alive, and he knew me!

* * *

Today is Easter Sunday. Jesus is alive, and He knows us! In today's gospel (Jn. 20, 1-9), Mary of Magdala, Peter and John found an empty tomb. Jesus whom they buried was no longer there. He whom they thought was dead was alive. It must have been a perplexing, scary moment for them, but it was also a very personal and joyful moment for them. As for Emmeldi, Jesus, the Christ, the Lord has risen from the dead.

* * *

The resurrection is not some event that happened 2,000 years ago, but an ongoing process of experience that holds us and moves us. Because of the resurrection we live filled with confidence that death is not the end. We, because of the resurrection we know that we are loved here and now and for eternity.

* * *

To say that the resurrection must be a personal encounter is not to say that it is exclusive. It must be shared! We must become agents of the resurrection, not agents of death. Because of the risen life, joy, hope and love, we make the resurrection a reality in our life and in other people's lives. Ask yourself today: Am I a life-giving, love-giving, hopeful and joyful person?

* * *

Wherever or however we open the Holy Week, hopefully, this Easter Sunday we all feel better, are better because we underwent a spiritual "spa." It was and I know, an epic happiness if we don't take or make time for it, and if we don't stay still, May the Holy Week remind us that life is not just about moving up or moving on, but also staying simple and staying still.

* * *

After the Holy Week, how do we bring the resurrection to our homes, our communities, or to our work places? It's back to reality for most of us. Filmmaker Joe Ma says forgets not taking to bring Christ to the workplace around us. Along with the resurrection to the mission to "go to the whole world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mk.16:15).

* * *

The reality is that a lot of people are suffering around us. All the divisions and tensions we experienced in the Holy Week should lead us to more concern and more real loving and caring. In terms of "spiritual giveaway" that focuses on spiritual highs, but does not make down to concrete loving in real life.

* * *

Someone visited me then beautiful Easter reminder: "Always make your chance greater than your past; always make your contribution greater than your reward; always make your gratitude greater than your success; always see God greater than yourself!"

In other words, Easter should make us always see the "big picture"!

* * *

"Date spes, opera." (While I breathe, I hope.) I hope is one of the basic messages of Easter but, don't give up on God, on others, and on yourself. We have all the reasons to hope. And all our hoping is not baseless. It is all grounded on a God most who, because of love, suffered so much, died and rose again so that we may have life to the fullest.

* * *

It was their faith in the resurrection that gave hope and strength to the parents, family and friends of 19-year-old actor Al Neve who died in a car accident last April 15. It was their faith and love for the Risen Lord that further strengthened them in the decision of Al's eyes to blind girl Bianca Bernardino. As a natural act, Bianca received cornea, and not cornea, transplant, so Al's cornea were given to other recipients. Beautiful Easter moments, because the generosity of Al's parents, and Bianca's obedience and docility to God's will.

* * *

On a personal note, part of my Holy Week was quite cleaning my room and disposing of the "trash" I have accumulated through the years. It is no easy to part with the treasures and memories of yesteryears, but what made me do that with facility was when I raised the question: Will this thing matter at all when I die? Believe me, we don't need much in this life, and we carry nothing with us when we die, except the love in our hearts.

* * *

Wishing you all a Happy Easter! Wishing you all strength and courage in whatever trials, and hope and joy in whatever problems. Love, love more of all, peace and love in your hearts and in your homes and beyond. Start NOW, new beginnings. Thank God for Easter. Thank God for hope and meaning. Thank God for eternity.

Adventure with the Lord:
Lord, help me to live a beautiful life that proclaims that you are alive. Amen.

The same yesterday, today and tomorrow (2)

IN CELEBRATION of this Sunday, I wrote an three of five leadership qualities of Jesus Christ. On this Easter Sunday, let me continue with the fourth and the fifth.

Priests, justice and love. The fourth: Jesus is a leader of unique and outstanding kinds. Just before Jesus walked on the water, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray, remaining there alone as evening drew on... " (Mt. 14:23-24).

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed so intensely that the sweat on his face like drops of blood falling on the ground (Lk. 22:44). And while he was nailed to the cross, He prayed aloud several times: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" and "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." He Himself taught the first prayer of all: the Lord's Prayer.

Fifth and most important, Jesus is a leader of justice and love.

Where the Bible speaks of justice, it really refers to righteousness—being "right" with God. We are right with God when we obey the commandments and follow His ways. We are right with God when we have Jesus who said: "He who will not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Jesus emphasized the importance of righteousness by contrasting His mission—to die instead with God—to the hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and all those things that He hated: "Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:20).

Scriptures describe Jesus as the ultimate judge of all. He will come in glory with His royal angels and will judge the nations. The book of wisdom describes how God is the hungry drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and comfort to the imprisoned (Mt. 25:35-40). In announcing the manifesto of trial of Jesus into the world, the prophet Isaiah declared (Is. 42:1-4):

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
My chosen one in whom I am pleased.
Upon whom I have put my spirit;
He shall bring forth justice to the nations.

Most refused Him. But Jesus did not bring up by justice. More than anything, He brought was

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

justice and love. Though He was at times tired and weary, still He taught the throngs who followed him. He broke and healed them. He never turned them down. On the contrary, He showed overwhelming love for the weak, the sick, the poor, the marginalized, the outcast and the sinners.

A good illustration of the supremacy of this love is shown in the story of the adulterous (Jn. 8:1-11). Jesus was confronted by the scribes (or canon lawyers) with a woman caught in flagrante delicto. They "fixed her," the scribes said to Him, "this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. In the law, Moses ordered such women to be stoned. What do you have to say about the case?"

This was a difficult situation. The law, as known by the jews, imposed the penalty of death by stoning the woman who had committed adultery. If Jesus did not impose it, He would have violated the law, and if He did, He would have committed the killing of a human being. In the face of this dilemma, Jesus replied, "Let the man among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone at her." At this, the men dispersed, for they realized that Jesus knew their hypocrisy.

But justice is not the most valued virtue in the kingdom of God. It is love. As St. Paul wrote (1 Cor. 13):

"If I speak with human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am sounding gong, exchanging symbols of. I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have no love, I gain nothing... If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned but have no love, I am nothing... There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love."

* * *

Comments: my website at cbdbanganpanganiban@hotmail.com

In 'Alabangistan'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"GET YOUR stories out of our country!" "Keep your sex out of my service!" "Anti—distance agreement bigotry!"

These were just some, albeit the more outrageous, placards that greeted people who attended the public hearing Monday 18 in De La Salle University-Dasmariñas on the controversial proposed Sanggunian ordinance of Brgy. Ayala Alabang Village (AAV), a very subdivision and commercial center in the north of Silang, Cavite, once dubbed as "Alabangistan."

Before the public hearing, I had been spreading about a barangay ordinance that claimed to "protect the rights of the patrons" and required the regulation of the "advertising, marketing and sale" of entertainment (including gambling) by requiring buyers to present prescriptions for controlled psychotropic substances, and then to register their names and contact details.

At issue was not just the legality of the ordinance, but also the lack of consultation or "vigilance" by the barangay council in its attempt to impose the ordinance. At the hearing, the "fee" for the ordinance also claimed that "security" was on their side. The "fee" also relied mainly on legal issues, particularly the Local Government Code and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) supervises local governments and the implementation of wealth agreed that the barangay council had overstepped its bounds and that the ordinance was therefore unenforceable and void ab initio.

In an interview in the Lifestyle section, titled "Love Barguio, AAV barangay chairman, said that the "issue" over the ordinance should be "over" and that residents should "move on." However, the barangay council submitted a revised version of the ordinance to the Municipal City Council. This, of course, was supposed to have undergone consultations and public hearings on the ordinance.

RESIDENTS of Ayala Alabang who do not agree with the intent or contents of the ordinance made clear their desire **that they simply do not want to pass and enforce the ordinance with or without** the only a very few—**knowing about it.**

The ordinance was supposed to have been passed last Dec. 23. Once that's before Christmas! **during a meeting of the barangay council, which was later revised to make it appear that a "public hearing"** had taken place. The residents complain that **there were no notices posted in public areas, nor was there any door-to-door** distribution of notices. No less than the village manager (who is not a barangay official) **absolved that there was no announcement of the Dec. 23 meeting in the AAV newsletter. Barguio** who would object to it... were not present. They should have been there. That's why they are single. Next said, why didn't you speak up? But we never felt welcome. And again, we are very transparent with what we do."

* * *

BEYOND the issue aside, the barangay council, after joining opponents to the ordinance, refusing to release copies of the ordinance, finally agreed to a large public meeting so that residents could be fully informed about the controversial ordinance.

Residents inform me that the ordinance is (a Safer Alabang Task Force (SATF) and that the task force enforcement be mandatory) and everybody was asked to register. Initially, barangay officials refused to allow non-residents (mostly for the "fee" aide) to enter but were persuaded upon by residents who said they were their "visitors."

Speaking for the "fee" side were lawyer Jamil aide-turned-lobbyist Lucio Tan), former Sen. Agapito "Dino" Pimentel Jr., and Sta. Angelina Miguel Aguilar. Speaking for the "fee" side were lawyers Jessie Dungo, former congressman Raffy Alunan, and former Senate spokesman Rey Langa. They also brought in representatives from the Department of Health, the DILG and the Food and Drug Administration, while the "fee" side had for its witnesses personal 13-year-old Paolo P. who asked the audience: "Would you like that people will be dying from dirty rice?" To reply said Lifeguard and former contesting the event, the audience erupted: "Yes, we want continuous!"

Among "fees" were some lawyers representing the youth sector, but his presence, to my mind, means that either the proponents of the ordinance couldn't find any credible authorities, or they thought so little of the opposition that they might not encounter much resistance.

* * *

FOR now, the (revised) ordinance still awaits submission to the Municipal City Council, although it is not clear when this will be. One suggestion made first suggested City ans Ayala Alabang residents who used to sit in the Population Commission as a Club appointment), **Love Barguio** raised the possibility that the ordinance would be implemented only in the Ayala Alabang, but among family members, too. Parents no longer seek us residents who are against the ordinance. Especially when their conservative parents are flock, or racist.

Ironically, the present AAV barangay council is run on the dream "Team Unity," with their critics adding: "Team Unity, no team that dissident."

Is the aim of the ordinance (brilliant and innovative) Could it be that the "cohorts of the enemy" as the opponents have been branded, are actually the champions of human rights and courts?

The 'Sunflower Revolutionary'

WORLD VIEW

Ma Jian

LONDON—THE gene scene that Ai Weiwei, perhaps China's most famous contemporary artist, has been arrested and jailed—his family and friends have not seen or heard from him since—makes me think some about Ai's 100 million hand-painted porcelain sunflower seeds, now being exhibited at London's Tate Modern Gallery.

Each porcelain, Ai's installation seems to imply, are like the millions of seeds spread across the Tate's gargantuan entrance hall. No one cares whether they are numbered or crushed under foot as the seeds were allowed to lie as the exhibition's opening). Unfortunately, it has become one of the seeds, his freedom crushed by the heel of an international.

The Chinese official newspaper Global Times denounces Ai as a "maverick," and maverick as are not tolerated in China. The only way for a Chinese individual to survive is to adopt the grey uniform and way of the sunflower seed.

According to a short note published by the official Xinhua news agency, Ai has allegedly been involved in so-called "economic crimes," which could mean practically anything from tax fraud, to Maoist denials of the leadership rule to drunk up. In fact, China's government has yet to decide whether to prosecute Ai for economic crimes or for being "maverick." Either way, the outside world must not be allowed to have any idea as to what Ai is being charged.

But the true reason for Ai's arrest is obvious. When the police stormed Ai's workshop, they detained one Ai's wife, Lu Qing, tell them, "What did Ai artist on the internet?"

In the Chinese government's view, an artist who dares to speak for the "sunflower seeds" and calls for an independent mind is a direct security threat. He must be put under control, silenced. Of course, the ruling Chinese Communist Party is prohibiting Ai's prosecution. It is as if three decades after China's "opening," nothing has changed in the Party's way of thinking and ruling.

Ai graduated from the Beijing Film Academy in 1978, but he learned and developed his artistic talents in the United States. He Shanghai workshop and to be a symbol for Chinese artists, including the film directors Chen Kaige and Zhang Yimo. But Ai never allowed himself to be tamed as an official, regime-backed artist. Instead, he remained an independent man, ready to speak and take action whenever an and ideals confronted repression and cowardly.

With China's regime now gripped by fear of an Arab-style revolution, this government has chosen repression as the only means to "maintain stability." On the day of Ai's arrest, former Global Times journalist Wen Tao was grabbed off the street in broad daylight. Before that, six writers have been, Teng Biao, Ai Xiaoming, Hu Jia, Ran Yunfei, Tang Jingling, Guo Quan, Li Fei, Ding Mao, Chen Wei, Jiang Tianyong, and Liu Zhengqing were separately detained or summoned to jail. Other young Beijing artists have been detained or harassed.

To be sure, the regime considers Ai's arrest a particularly serious matter because of his promotion of public demonstrations. But Ai never participated in the many insurrant appeals for such protests. And his artistic mission so far puts the beginning. The most targets will likely be independent writers like Ai Xiaoming, Liu Qing, Liu Hejing, and Liu Hoh. The regime will not stop the persecution until the only voices to be heard are to one "official" artists.

Ai's arrest and disappearance, along with the severe prison sentence imposed on the Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, are driven by the same fear that drove the rulers of the Ming Dynasty to destroy the Jesuit missionaries' publications and purge independent intellectuals.

This process is working now. The writer Liu Xiaobo received a six-year prison sentence and died in a hospital under police supervision last year. Another writer, Li Xiaobing, was sentenced to 30 years. Perhaps even worse, the writer Ye Du is being threatened with the death sentence. Ai's wife, Lu Qing, is under constant surveillance and is not allowed to leave Beijing. Other writers have been threatened, harassed, or interrogated. Independent men, ready to speak and take action whenever an and ideals confronted repression and cowardly.

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Juan V. Bantigue Jr.

EASTER REFLECTIONS

Joys of organic gardening

By Elizabeth P. De Castro

AS A YOUNG girl playing with my siblings in our sheltered garden in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, I remember picking a few earthworms. When the rain, running them, stopping on them and crushing them to bits. I was also one very fond of planting or gardening either because as a child, I was told not was dirty and we would catch germs playing with dirt.

Little did I know that I would be passionately taking earthworms and enjoying planting and gardening not only as occupational but as an advocacy that my husband and I have decided to pursue.

Sanctuary

While I worked for United in Bangkok, Thailand, as a child protection psychologist for victims and survivors of the tsunami, my husband, Antonio De Castro, started raising earthworms, first in our garage and then, on our farm in Tanay. He called the place Earthworm Sanctuary.

When my contract ends, I came back to the Philippines desperately needing respite and therapy. That was when the earthworms came back into my life in the front yard of our home in Quezon City. It was the beginning of my conversion as what is scholarly called vermiculture and organic farming.

Harmony with nature

For the vast majority of my time on Earth as a species, we have call the land, it is only in the last 200 years that most of us have become urban dwellers. Almost 50% of the land is now covered.

Hence, we cause no appreciation for benefits of being part of nature, of working with it rather than fighting it. Hunting our garden with valuable beings means more productive than defeating our enemies.

By gardening organically, we encourage nature producers such as birds, beetlings and others to keep our garden pests in check. Over years, we grow plants that attract butterflies into our garden for the sweet joy of looking at their luminous beauty. We do not try to keep the land in good condition for the next generation.

Earthworms are [illegible] lands' conversion—generally [illegible] and microorganisms for their contribution to making our soil rich and fertile. They are all our biological helpers: worms, digest them and convert them into the best organic fertilizer. Until now, I am still amazed at how the earthworms do their job of ventilating the soil, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, without complaining and without expecting anything in return except food and water.

However, when we poison our soil with chemical fertilizers, we are killing the earth, worms and all other insects and life forms under the ground. What we must do if we would be deprived of the gift of soil that is alive and teeming with beneficial microbes.

Be stewards of creation

In much has been said about respect for the integrity of human life but very little is said about respect for other living creatures. I have become increasingly aware of this very low regard for other living things by the way we treat animals, cut down trees and exploit our natural resources.

If man continues this careless pace of environmental exploitation, we will be endangering our very survival as a species.

The lack of respect for nature is also degrading human life, violating our right to life, food, health and development. As stewards of God's creation, it is our duty and responsibility to care for it and nurture it.

Eat healthy, live healthy

The sad and sorry state of our environment challenges us to reconsider the way we live and how and consider our business. Industrialization, lack of proper disposal and consumption are not sustainable not only from an environmental perspective but also from a social and economic point of view.

Edible gardening, even in the smallest of backyards or container gardens, can pose a tempting amount of food on our table in smart (but not quite) ways. Its attitude and awareness sense, the have found that growing our own food—however small or little one can be—is the best way towards doing anyone ever suspected.

It pleases to be nature's way of rediscovering our physical and psychological health. Organic produce can provide all the necessary micronutrients and enzymes to food we need to make us healthy and strong. Organic food is also tasty, making becomes a delightful culinary experience.

Just getting into the garden and doing simple manual tasks enable us to switch off living our lives at breakneck pace. Gardening works in nature's own time frame; it leaves the gardener no choice but to slow down or to pace.

Gardening is creative; it gives people who feel they have no artistic talent an opportunity to express something visually beautiful.

Second chances

It is also an opportunity to recycle, gardening gives us endless second chances. If something didn't work quite well this summer, there is always next year to try again.

As science digs deeper into the effects of bacteria on human health and on the immune system, it is becoming apparent that ingesting components of the soil itself might be as critical to human health as the flower fruits and veggies that goes in it. One of the latest reasons has finds that certain substances (to be called biocides) that are supposed to be poisonous to "vulnerables" (more specifically "disputants"), the chemicals in the fruits that is responsible for making us happy or joyful.

Therapy

Working in a natural environment, having physical contact with the soil, is literally a grounding experience for the mentally ill. The healing effect on surroundings also feeds the spirit. That is how horticultural therapy is so valuable for people suffering from mental illness, learning disabilities and other psychological problems.

Growing plants also offers an opportunity to be nurturing, to feel needed, without the pressure or guilt involved in relationships with people. There is immense satisfaction to be had from seeing seeds that we have sown germinate and grow into plants. Small developmental miracles—from GMO to the continued production of our farmers—working in our gardens is very empowering, too.

Develop spirituality

Gardens have always had an important role in spirituality, providing solace and stimulation for the mind. Even gardeners, who are not religious in a conventional sense, cannot but be aware of some greater power at work.

From the earliest times, it is probable that gardens were had a religious or spiritual significance as Mircea Eliade and David Abram suggests in their book, "Eastern Gardening." They point to people in ancient times gardeners, a term used only in understanding of "farmers on the land of the divine" emerged.

Fibonacci

In 12th century Pisa, the mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci discovered a sequence of numbers in which each number is the sum of the two before it. He found these numbers occur in nature, in seashells, in the family tree of the plant and flower kingdom, in modern technology, gas or theory.

The number of petals on a flower, or of seeds in a seed head, whether it is a sunflower or a pine cone—of honey always is only are Fibonacci numbers. If you count the seeds in a sunflower seed head, starting at the center and counting in spirals to the left and to the right, you will find that they too, are Fibonacci numbers.

It does seem very unlikely that all this is purely random. Is this the manifestation of the perfection of God in nature? I think it is.

Sensibility

Gardening is a natural and refreshing way to enhance sensibility to life, and to become aware of the deep need to open spiritual communication between nature and human beings and their profound relationship with their Creator. Trees make us a unique personality, they make us alert to our essential being, animals and bugs share their private lives, and birds include us in their play.

Rarely do people talk about it but I find the deep personal experience of being in communion with nature as an epiphany of sorts—a communion with the Creator.

Interconnectedness

As a trained socio-psychologist, I find it easier to talk about the values of nurturing, caring and sharing. Applying an inner perspective to gardening adds a new dimension to the nurturing metaphor. Doing gardening tasks such as weeding, pruning, transplanting and feeding the soil. Taking care of earthworms and gardening have therapeutic value in an eloquently simple way that demonstrates the interdependencies of life and how God has a divine purpose in all.

We must seek ourselves by finding our own inner garden, cultivate it, and repair its weeds. It feels for inner harmony a love for our fellow human beings and, in the end, our profound love for the Creator. May be one of whose [illegible] [illegible] inner peace with ultimate by make [illegible] [illegible] world.

(Together with her husband, Atty. Antonio De Castro Ph.D. founded the Earthworm Sanctuary Project. Involved in urban farming as an advocacy, encouraging as the new solution to solid waste management, the organization is a child protection partnership for victims of disasters/wars.)

GETTING DOWN TO EARTH: Author Elizabeth P. De Castro harvests a berry tomatoes in her garden in Quezon City. Fruits and vegetables in the background are from her farm and other produces in Tanay, Rizal.

Between honesty and hope

By Edwin G. dela Torre

EASTER Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ and the new generation of Christians is born. That's why it is appropriate that hope is celebrated. It's good to have hope as we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Naia will finally have clean toilets

From page A1

two-to-nine months.

Jose Angel Honrado, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority, told the Inquirer in an interview last week that the agency had proposed upon itself the task of remodeling all toilets in the three Naia terminals by June or July.

The self-imposed deadline came after critics rolling on the website "The Guide to Sleeping in Airports" rated Naia the fifth worst in the world—behind two in France, including Paris Charles de Gaulle, Los Angeles and Moscow.

The Naia has the distinction of topping the list of the worst airports in Asia—nowhere one.

"What we can promise to our traveling public is that within two to three months all our toilets will be fully equipped with toilet paper and soap," Honrado said.

And, he vowed, broken plumbing will be fixed, and there'll be running water.

He said his agency had been renovating lavatories in Terminal 1, and had finished work on seventy-eight sets of male and female restrooms out of 87.

On the other hand, the lavatories in Terminal 2 and 3 weren't broken, and, being in tip-top shape, needed no fixing, Honrado said.

Some of the complaints raised by travelers on sites about the Naia toilet mentioned its "filthy toilets," as well as not enough seats, and officials asking for bribes.

Honrado said he respected the opinion of the reviewers but insisted there is a lot the terminal again and see the improvements.

He also noted that the website was geared toward budget travelers who slept in airports to save on lodging.

Honrado said Terminal 1 could not accommodate airport sleepers, given the space limitations.

However, he promised clean toilets for the weary travelers, at least in the coming months ahead.

The question nags, though: Where is the airport travel tax being paid by travelers going?

Christ's resurrection offers hope, say Church leaders

EASTER is the greatest manifestation of God's love that gives hope amid the evils of the world, according to the head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

In a message issued yesterday, Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan said that Jesus' death and resurrection "is the world's only hope."

Easter Sunday should remind the faithful that Christ had risen victorious against death and evil.

"We, sinful as we are, would be lost in a world beset by various forms of evil realities, were it not for Jesus' death and resurrection," he said.

Talamayan said Easter must be "exalted feast" of the Church.

He added: "This feast, known as the apotheo sis of all feasts, is specially celebrated in the east and in the west in the form of death. But it did not end all there. "Glorious end."

Jesus, after all, conquered the final enemy of men—death. The glorious event of resurrection has once and for all crippled the fearsome of darkness. This incorruptible woman banner of God and has an end to the definitiveness of death is a strong message of hope—that in all of this, every work of evil shows, before the power of goodness," he said.

Mother of all feasts

Archbishop said Easter must be "exalted feast" of the Church.

He added: "This feast, known as the apotheo sis of all feasts, is specially celebrated in the east and of the ancient season and Sacred Triduum, and marks the beginning of the Easter season.

"Lenten Christians, the prayerful celebration of Easter is of great importance. This special occasion draws every believer to contemplate the greatest manifestation of the love of God perfectly revealed in Christ who died for the guilt of humanity and rose to life again, conquering the most devastating sin of death.

"On this jubilant occasion, everyone, especially the sorrowing and the doubtful, is made to witness the dawning of light and to enjoy the joys and consolations brought by the victor of life."

Archbishop also urged the faithful to proclaim their faith and to become "soldiers of social transformation."

"Let us work for peace that lasts and justice that enhances the human condition. Let us not be selfish as to deprive others of their right to live. Let us not be too clever as to deceive others to our own advantage. Let them be Easter in our midst by our presence that loves and cares," he said.

Transforming power

In his own message, Bishop Efraim Tendero, national director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, said Easter Sunday gave Christians hope and optimism in the face of seemingly insurmountable problems.

"Today, we can experience that same power that can transform our lives from hopelessness and despair to that of triumph and further productivity," Tendero said.

He said that "as the world faces various natural calamities, economic crisis just like Japan with the Philippines "confronted by great challenges like the attacks of our common enemies due to the troubles in the Middle East, the unprecedented hike of oil prices, and continuing criminality, we can face the future with greater optimism that the risen Christ will sustain and even give us greater progress."

"May we all experience the transforming power of the risen Christ," he added.

Bread, soup and memories

From page A1

Senghor vice president and chief operating officer of Bidiam Technology Park Inc. (BTPI)—which has converted the PRPC for tourism, zone security and industrial uses—also said no refugee was left in the area.

Halfway home

The Bicutan experience is different from that in Bataan's Puerto Princesa City, where many refugees temporarily settled, Senghor said. But they also left here.

In 2000, the Voice of America reported that the last of the 1,200 Vietnamese in Palawan—nearly 177 children and more than same spouses—decided to Canada.

The PRPC was only a halfway home for Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians who fled conflicts in their countries by boats, said Pete Lopez, who fought English 20 years ago at the 600-hectare camp this side of the South China Sea.

The final destinations of the 289,111 Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians, whose papers were processed at the camp from 1980 to 1997, were mostly the United States and Europe, according to the information by Maria Pelen Bagasao, PRPC executive secretary-coordinator.

The United Nations ran and funded the PRPC in 1980 until its closure in 1994.

Mendiola has happy memories of her classmates among the young Vietnamese who went to elementary school in Bicutan.

What Lucida remembered of the Indochinese was that they sold food, clothes, paintings, wood sculptures and jewelry to locals.

'Eat my house'

There was one thing that amused Lucida no end. "It's their list of English," she said. For instance, when they invited people, they would say: "You eat my house."

Bicutan was how they called modern Filipino man.

Steven Francisco, a midwife with the rural health office, said they had nearly rushed to the aspirin.

When life at the PRPC and the refugees' culture were too far to glimpsed from the photographs and the accounts. But "Eats Rich Life, a former teacher, shared on the Internet.

Still standing at the BTPI are several monuments built by the refugees. These were meant to remind themselves of their identities, culture and religions, Bagasao said.

Faith and love

There is the Indochinese mosque, which is actually a rotary market.

There also is no image of Buddha and two Buddhist temples: a replica of Lore' Plai That Luang monument, a refugee host, an image of the Virgin Mary whose features are similar to a Chinese, a replica of the Statue of Liberty.

The PRPC has also lived friendship among staff members and teachers of the International Catholic Migration Commission, who guided in blessing for communion.

"The refugees may have all been gone, but we, Filipinos, who provided the refuge, remained strong in faith and love because Jesus was the subject of our Pope John Paul II urged us to cultivate in that time of humanitarian crisis," Father Lorenzo said. Source: Orozco, Inquirer Central Luzon

PASSION PALES Pope Benedict XVI processes a cross as he leads the Passion Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. AFP

Pope Benedict goes hi-tech

From page A1

day and his resurrection, which is celebrated on Easter Sunday.

Japan quake

The first question came from young Elena, who asked the Pope why she felt so afraid after Japan's earthquake shook her house and left so many children.

"Why do children have to be so sad?" the girl asked. "I'm afraid of the Pope, who speaks with God, to explain it to me."

Speaking simply so if Elena were right there, Benedict responded that he too was afraid when so many innocent people suffer, but that God could take them in his loving that Jesus had suffered too.

"You can be sure that in the world, in the universe, there are many people who are with you, thinking of you, doing what they can for you to help you," Benedict said.

He assured, we are with you, with all the Japanese children who are suffering."

'True act of love'

He then turned to a question from an Italian student, Elena Teresa, who wanted about her son, Francesco, who has been in a vegetative state since December 2009. She asked if Francesco would still recognize.

"He feels the presence of love," Benedict told her, pausing her by keeping her right as a "true act of love."

"I encourage you, therefore, to carry on, to know that you are giving a great service to humanity, not by the success of the world, sign of respect for life, such that love for a wounded body and a suffering soul," he said.

Msgr. Joel Tighe, the St. 1 man is the Italian consul-romania on silence effort, said the decision to have the Pope participate in the holy rites of events "demonstrates the resolve that Benedict must engage more with the public to ensure his message was received.

Simple beginning

"This is a very simple beginning of what you could say is a ministry," Tighe said in a recent interview. "It's launching something new for us."

In the past, Benedict has taken preselected questions from carefully chosen Catholics, responding live to St. Peter's Square, such as when he unveil annually with reporters outside.

He also regularly answers questions submitted beforehand by journalists when flying to foreign countries and has fielded questions from groups of priests.

But the Good Friday session was the first time he had taken questions from the general public—used and anonymously from the Catholic public.

"The advantage of this is it opens up the possibility to people who couldn't hope or aspire to having a direct meeting with the pope, but through the Internet can put their questions there," Tighe said.

Muslim woman

That was certainly the case for Rania, a Muslim woman who greeted the Pope in Arabic and asked him in French for his advice on bringing peace to Ivory Coast, which has been wracked by political violence.

"How many innocents have lost their lives?" she said. "How many mothers and how many children traumatized?"

Benedict told the woman that he too grieved that he could do so little, saying he had tasked the head of the Vatican's justice and peace office, Cardinal Peter Turkson, to try to mediate between the country's opposing factions.

"The only path to overcome violence, to begin anew with dialogue, with the willingness to find peace together, with a new concern for one another, a new willingness to be open to one another," the Pope said.

The broadcast replayed the Pope's response with commentary from Italian religious affairs experts, as well as video footage of the people asking their questions.

It was a very feminine-focused event, with three of the questions coming from women and a fourth about Mary.

Way of the Cross

Benedict continued that theme with the more traditional Good Friday event—the nighttime Way of the Cross procession at Rome's Colosseum, in which the faithful remember the final hours of Christ's life.

The meditations for each station of the cross were composed by an Italian nun, Sr. Maria Rita Piccione, and the network accompanying them were designed by another nun.

Piccione said she didn't know why she had been selected. The only connection she can find with the Pope, she said in a newspaper interview, was when she sent him a letter last year offering her support for the "persecution" that he and the Church were going through in the midst of the clerical abuse scandal.

She added that she directly to the scandal but spoke generally about sin and how Good Friday recalls that Christ died for all humankind's sins.

He looked tired after the nearly two-hour procession, the bulk of which he spent kneeling in prayer.

The Pope had to hold up well as he finished back to the Vatican, where he will preside over an Easter Vigil late Saturday and Sunday's Easter Mass.

Via Dolorosa

While the CBA session departed from the Vatican's Good Friday routine, elsewhere in the world missed Christian practices marked the solemn day.

In Jerusalem, Christian pilgrims filled the cobblestone alleyways of the walled Old City to commemorate Jesus' crucifixion about two millennia ago.

Thousands of nations gathered indoors and local Christians entered Christ's last steps down the Via Dolorosa, Latin for the "Way of Suffering."

The route ends at the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulchre, revered as the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

"All my life I've been waiting for this walk—I've been waiting for one day to come here in Jerusalem to everyday. I want to say where my Lord stepped," said Rosilyn Pacheco, a pilgrim from Tornado. AP

Estrada accepts Corpus apology

From page A1

Rudy's, in connection with the public outcry in the August 9, 2001, issue of the Inquirer of a news report headlined "Drug lord millions in the US."

In his letter to former President Estrada and former Sen. Loi Estrada, Corpus asked the couple to "accept [his] apology for wrongdoing (done) and (that) I hastily in the past."

The Inquirer also wishes to express its regret for the publication of the news report, which was based on an interview with then Colonel Corpus and on the post-operation report he submitted to then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the article, Corpus reported that Estrada and Sen. Jinggoy "Jing" Lawson "have laundered nearly $1 billion believed to have been amassed since 1998 from drug trafficking, kidnapping and other criminal activities into local accounts in three countries."

The article quoted Corpus as saying that at least $728,500,295 was credited in individual and joint accounts in 45 savings, checking and time deposits in Citibank and Bank of America branches in the United States, Hong Kong and Canada.

In the article, Corpus said a joint team of the Iraly and Philippine National Police left Manila on June 2, 2001, and spent nearly a month in San Francisco investigating the alleged bank accounts.

National Scientific Conference on Health Social Science

Venue:
CSB Hotel
(Andres Avenue cor.
Estrada Street
Malate, Manila)

Date:
October 14, 2011

May 15, 2011 – Deadline for Submission of Abstracts
July 15, 2011 – Notification of Acceptance
September 15, 2011 – Deadline of Full paper

De La Salle University
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24 nailed to crosses in Good Friday ritual

SAN PEDRO CUTUD, Pampanga—At least 24 Filipinos were nailed to crosses in recent Jesus Christ's suffering in a Good Friday ritual criticized by Catholic Church leaders but witnessed by a throng of believers and thrill seek of tourists.

Before Hanjo, a 10-year-old dipa pamin, screamed in pain as villagers dressed as Roman executioners hammered four inch stainless steel nails through his palms and set him aloft on a cross under a humid sun for a few minutes at San Pedro Cutud village in Pampanga.

Twenty-three other men were nailed to crosses in the province, officials said.

It was Hanjo's 25th crucifixion. He said surviving nearly unscathed when he fell from a three-story building in 1985 prompted him to undergo the annual ordeal.

Aside from thanking God, Hanjo says prays for more painless jobs.

"Not a bone in my body was broken when I fell from that building," Hanjo said. "It was a miracle."

"Now I'm praying for good health and more clients," Hanjo told The Associated Press.

Throngs of other penitents walked through the streets and beat their bare backs with sharp bamboo sticks and pieces of wood, sometimes splashing spectators with blood.

Some participants opened cuts in the penitents' backs using broken glass to ensure the ritual was sufficiently bloody.

The grim spectacle reflects the country's unique brand of Catholicism, which merges Church traditions with folk superstitions.

Many of the mainly impoverished penitents undergo the ritual to atone for sins, pray for the sick or always life and give thanks for what they believe were God-given miracles.

Better 'y wish

"I hope the Lord will grant my wish to make me win big in 'jueteng' this year," Mrs Lanuang, a 55-year-old food vendor who said he couldn't read or write, told Reuters before two five-inch nails were driven into his hands on a scorching hot day.

Jueteng is a popular illegal number racket in the Philippines.

Lanuang, a father of five, said he had won P5,000 twice in the five years he had himself nailed on a cross.

The most number of crucifixions were staged beside a rice field at Cutud, where 15 men were nailed to crosses three at a time on a dusty mound as more than 30,000 people, including three European ambassadors, watched and snapped pictures.

An ambulance stood by and more than 20 rose sey haloed or became dizzy in the heat, officials said.

Amid the festive air—villagers peddled boiled sweet corn and religious items every where—police and marshals kept order. Some displayed banners with a reminder: "Silence please and take care of your belongings."

Police reported at least one pickpocket victim.

Three crucifixions also were held in each of Barangays San Juan and Sta. Lucia in San Fernando, as well as Lourdes North West in Angeles City, officials said.

Only for Pinoys

Foreigners have been banned from taking part after an Australian comic was nailed to a cross under a false name a few years ago near Pampanga. Authorities also believe that a Japanese stunt sought to be crucified as part of a porn film in 1996, said tourism officer Chita Angeles-Cruz.

"They made a mockery out of a local tradition," she said.

Church leaders in the Philippines, Asia's largest predominantly Roman Catholic nation, have frowned on the Holy Week rituals, saying Filipinos can show their deep faith without torturing themselves.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said the crucifixions and self-flagellation were an "impulsive initiation with doubtful theological and social significance," adding that only Jesus Christ's death saved mankind.

Pampanga Bishop Pedro Pilapils David said the bloody rites reflected the Church's failure to fully educate many Filipinos on Christian tenets.

Hanjo and the other penitents said the Church should respect their belief.

"When I'm up there on the cross, I feel very close to God," Hanjo said. "My grew up with this tradition and nothing can stop us."

Healer started it all

A Cutud village healer, Rosalio dela Cruz, said no penitent had experienced any major health problems since the cross-nailings began there in the 1960s.

The nails are soaked in alcohol for as long as a year and then sprinkled with holy water before use, he said.

Cutud's version of Calvary is a hill made of ash and sand spread out by Mount Pinatubo in its 1991 eruption.

The crucifixion at Cutud began in 1961 or 1962 when itinerant faith healer Rolando Nuñez played the part of Christ in the village's Way of the Cross.

The street play mounted by the late Rolando Navarro in Cutud in 1971, has been continued by his grandson, Allan.

More than 200 cross-bearers and some 3,000 "flagellants" (men who whip their backs with bamboo sticks called "hagbuos") converged in Cutud's Calvary on Good Friday, Dela Cruz said. —Reports from AP Reuters and Fonda Dimpa, Inquirer Central Luzon

LENTEN RITUAL. Penitents are nailed to the cross at Barangay San Pedro Cutud in the City of San Fernando during the reenactment of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday in Pampanga.

More rains over Compostela Valley seen

By Leila B. Salaverria

MORE RAINS are expected over Compostela Valley and the rest of Mindanao and the Visayas, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The cold pool of cold front is affecting the eastern section of the Visayas and Mindanao, while a low-pressure area has been spotted east off Surigao City in the Caraga region, Pagasa said.

They said rain may also trigger flash floods or landslides.

Pagasa advised residents of low-lying areas and those living along river banks and mountain slopes to take precautionary measures.

It said that northern Luzon and Palawan would have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila would have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms, it said. Eastern Visayas and Mindanao could experience widespread rains that might trigger flash floods or landslides.

Pagasa said the southwest monsoon was affecting Palawan province.

It said that northern Luzon and Palawan would have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. It said Eastern Visayas and Mindanao could experience widespread rains that might trigger flash floods or landslides.

Pagasa said private mining firms and groups had pledged to lending two helicopters to ferry rescuers to and from the site, and sending in their own experts.

He said President Aquino had directed the DENR to lead the rescue efforts.

A team from the environment department's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) led by Director Leo Jasareno left Manila yesterday for Compostela Valley.

Paje said the MGB officials would provide knowledge crucial in the rescue because of their expertise in tunneling, excavation and other mining-related activities.

He said the team would work with members of the Philippine Army already in the area.

"We will combine the expertise of the MGB-DENR together with that of the military," Paje said in the statement.

The experts from private firms will also help, he added.

Rescue first

Paje himself is expected to arrive in Compostela Valley today, along with Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

The DENR will provide the Presidential presidio updates on the search and rescue operations.

According to Paje, the DENR team will focus on saving the trapped miners, and police matters will be decided later.

"There are no police decisions now. We will focus first on our most immediate concern, which is rescue," he said.

The Compostela Valley landslide, triggered by heavy rains, has covered several illegal, small-scale gold mines, as well as houses, stores and gold processing mills.

15 buried miners saved, 3 dead in Compostela landslide

From page A1

rescue operations would continue with the backing of military troops, including the police, the Philippine Red Cross and civilian workers.

Compostela Valley Gov. Arturo Uy said he had ordered a 30-day halt in all mining operations in the gold-rich areas of the province.

Uy said his order would be enforced as soon as he had met with town officials. He said he would assign the police to shut down all mining operations.

Many of these operations are illegal and unregulated, and there are frequent accidents, Pagasa said in a report.

'Here we are again'

Pantukan Mayor Celso Sarmiento said the town had been witness to hundreds of mining tragedies over gold rush fever since the mountain barangays over 10 years ago.

Barcelo said a landslide occurred in Barangay Kinghing and nearby Barangay Napalapas, killing at least 36, just two years ago. "Now, here we are again," he said.

In a statement, Clyde Gillespie, an official of US-based, Canadian-listed St. Augustine Gold and Copper Mining Ltd., said the landslide occurred far away from the mining company's area of operations.

"The landslide is in a very remote area called Upper Limimpang, some distance away from areas in which [the Philippines' Nationwide Development Corp.] and St. Augustine are conducting extensive mineral and engineering studies," Gillespie said.

On its website, St Augustine said the Kinghing prospect was one of the largest undeveloped gold copper gold deposits in the world. The government's mines bureau has listed Kinghing as one of its priority investment projects.

No activity has been reported in the area prior to the landslide.

He said the search-and-rescue operations were "a race against time" because the longer the victims were buried in the mud, the lower the chances that they would be pulled out alive.

Barcelo agreed, saying: "We are hoping the number of the missing would not increase. But if the rains go by, the chances of recovering more survivors are becoming dim."

He said the number of persons involved in the search-and-rescue had been reduced from 1,000 to 800 because the deployment of heavy equipment had been increased.

Some 300 to 400 cubic meters of mud now covers three

DISASTER AREA An aerial shot of the mining area at Barangay Kinghing, Pantukan, Compostela Valley, which was hit by a landslide caused by torrential rain over the weekend.

hectares of land from the slide, burying houses, Barcelo said.

He said private mining firms and groups had pledged to lending two helicopters to ferry rescuers to and from the site, and sending in their own experts.

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The Compostela Valley landslide, triggered by heavy rains, has covered several illegal, small-scale gold mines, as well as houses, stores and gold processing mills.

Barcelo said the local government had not been remiss in warning small-scale miners of the danger in the area, especially during rainy days.

"They've been warned. We already advised them to leave the area as it has become too dangerous, but still they persist in staying as long as they can extract gold there," he said.

But for veteran miner Cloe, the prospects of retiring good enough to stop digging the danger posed by mining.

"What I have been thinking is that danger is everywhere. If it's your time, you're not safe even in areas you think are safe," he said.

P2,000 a gram

Sarmina said the lure of gold, "now priced at P2,000 a gram," had drawn miners even from far places to try their luck in Kinghing and other gold-rich villages in Pantukan.

But while Cloe calmly anticipates mistake disasters in the future as a small-scale miner, 31-year-old Tetching was visibly traumatized by the landslide.

Barcelo said some 61 still want to become a miner after what happened," Tetching said. Soon his bed at the Pantukan District Hospital, where he was being treated for cuts and bruises to the arms and hips. His wife Rosario Tetching, Alma Yearal and Rose May de Guzman Hinkson, Inquirer Mindanao, and Reuters

Century-old acacia proposed as heritage tree for Sorsogon

From page A1

"green heritage" landmark for our community, given the DENR Heritage Tree Program criteria outlined in the Inquirer articles.

Standing tall and majestic with its widespread crown of luminous leaves and sturdy branches, the 100-plus-year-old monumental tree on regularly built sets to encompass its girth. It rises to a height of 18-24 meters, with its trunk definitely more than one meter above the ground.

This more than 100-year-old acacia itself contributes most, if not all, of the other trees and vegetation within its sphere.

These figures were supplied by a DENR staff whom my late brother Ebner and I requested to measure and determine the age of the tree sometime in 1997 as part of my documentation required by the department for entries in final year's search for centennial trees along with photos.

This search was in response to the celebration of the Centennial Year of the declaration of Philippine Independence in 1998. However, there were many others for older and with more national historical significance and we only did not make it.

Unlike the 300 trees, our acacia tree grows along the shore of Sorsogon Bay on a 9,000 square meter property originally titled in the name of my grandmother, Rosalia Lasala.

It stands some 350-500 meters or so from Bonifacio-Ibalon Elementary School.

Older than grandfather

An uncle and one-time Barangay Bonifacio Council member Lucio "Tay Dac" Lasmarias who died several years ago at the age of 105 years had claimed that his acacia tree is definitely older than he was.

He told me that he used to pass by the tree during his boyhood days, oftentimes resting, or simply playing games with other boys his age under its shade.

Some old-time residents reckoned that our grandfather, Bartolome Aquiatan, must have planted, or caused to be planted, the acacia tree, together with the lanzy coconut trees and some fruit trees my siblings and I had been fortunate enough to enjoy.

I would still remember some jackfruit, pili and camiri trees that we used to climb which, according to our late parents, had been planted by our Lola Rose and Lola Sili.

Our late parents, Florentino Laguna Lagasca and Sofia Lasala Aquiatan, were very steadfast in preserving our acacia. Logger and wood furniture manufacturers had approached them countless times and asked them to name their price for the tree, but they always turned them down.

They were fierce environmentalists and ecology-warriors long before "environmental protection" came into vogue.

Silent witness

My siblings and I passed on our parents' passionate concern for the preservation of the acacia tree.

We agreed never to sacrifice the acacia tree for whatever amount of money, and to preserve and protect it, declaring heritage for our future generations.

The acacia tree is a silent witness to our growing-up years. We played childhood games under its shade. We made plans and shared dreams and secrets under its protective cover, especially my elder sister Anita and I.

We courted some of our classmates and leaders for the

A CIRCLE OF SIX It takes about six men with arms spread out fingertips touching one another to encircle the main trunk of Barangay Bonifacio site in Sorsogon City.

Most are the fifteen, while lying on our backs on a favorite boulders. We would watch the glowing fireflies flitting around to their covers, and wait for fairies to summon us to their dances, or whatever (when we watched the acacia tree for us we thought).

Familiar beacon

We shed tears and comforted one another over our echo-like games while calling out names of the boulders, smoothed by the waves. We would watch almost go with Papa's barrel (a banana and corn consumption) and his companion (a catfish species) catch his paddocking (bank and timber with a motor-long piece of string) during the August season, when big, murky waves with fleshy foam would crash against the boulders around the trunk of the tree.

And almost everyone coming out of the sea, on their moonless nights or during bad weather, would look upon the acacia tree as a familiar beacon that would safely bring them home toward the direction.

If only our acacia tree could talk! What stories it would tell us, what stories it would reveal!

Like, how many birds had it nurtured or were nested in its branches, how many playful birds had been scraped trying to retrieve their eggs and baby, naked (later) whose tails and wings got entangled in its leaves and branches.

How many fishermen, pushing out their boats from or "parking" those boats it, had their hats standing on end, fearful of offending the deity and his ilk, who had made the tree their home?

IN THE KNOW

In 2009, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launched the Heritage Tree Program, the aim of which was to preserve, protect and conserve trees that are rare, endemic, vanishing or historical.

The DENR defines a heritage tree as "healthy, indigenous, exotic, rare and with a minimum girth of 100 centimeters measured one-half meter above the ground."

The program aims to find and tag 70 trees per year as heritage trees. However, since the implementation, the DENR has tagged only five heritage trees. Four of the officially marked heritage trees are found in Quezon City while one is located at Pantabangan.

The program is currently being implemented only in Metro Manila. PIA/Archives, DENR, Inquirer Research

On how many fairies, Aswangs and other elementals would party and make merry on moonless full moon nights over time.

Great protector

Our family and neighbors certainly acknowledge that we as a "great protector," an even loyal natural shielding our family from the typhoons and better the flood region from us for such as I can remember.

Typhoon "Tito" in the 1970s was unaware from Sorsogon Bay to our house made of light materials, some 300 meters away from the shore. Perhaps, without the acacia tree as "Iron Tree barrier," together with the Ipil, Santol trees and pili trees, to mention some, our house would have been destroyed.

"Ebong" in 1987 was one typhoon that stayed in my mind. I was already at the National Housing Authority office in Quezon City then. I had to rush home to Sorsogon through impassable roads and collapsed bridges just to be with my retired mother, 10-year-old son, and my brothers' and sisters' families.

The devastation was so great I was almost choking upon reaching our place and seeing my fallen trees and tall. I took several photographs of the devastation. The acacia tree still stood majestic and proud despite its crown stripped bare of leaves.

Constant reminder

It was the same story with the recent Typhoon "Milenyo," of September 2006. Death, destruction and damage to property in millions of pesos, primarily because we have not been faithful stewards of our environment, because we have allowed our neighborhood to denude forests. We have stopped cutting but have not stopped.

Again, I cite pictures of the acacia tree in the aftermath of the fury of Milenyo and Ebong, tastefully pruned and left despite Mother Nature's "double whammy."

Perhaps, the Heritage Tree Program to one small step for want for Mother Nature, for our environment. Perhaps it will constitute to restoring the earth's ecological balance.

If a heritage tree for Bicolano, in this Year of the Forests will certainly serve as constant reminder of our commitment to preserve our environment for generations yet to come.

First Philippine National Games showcases Philippines best, brightest

A total of 4,000 athletes are expected to participate in the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) – Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Philippine National Games (PNG) set on May 22-29 in Bacolod, Negros Occidental as the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) has opened its online registration through www.psc.gov.ph.

Thirty-five events will be contested during the games. The events which will be held in Bacolod City are 5K, 3k and 10K marathon, athletics, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, billiards, boxing, gymnastics, judo, karatedo, lawn tennis, motorcycle sports, sailing, softball,soft tenis, swimming, taekwondo, volleyball, weightlifting, wind surfing and wrestling.

Negor City will host baseball, canoe kayak, dragon boat, muay thai and wushu. Road cycling, futsal, football, parade ride, trail climbing and table tennis will be played in Talisay while Silay City will host archery, arnis, sepak takraw and triathlon.

On the other hand, water crowd-drawing events like basketball, boxing, men's football, dancesports, chess, golf and shooting were included after their National Sports Association (NSA) declared that they have already set their respective calendars for this year. Moreover, these NSAs promised to take part in the annual event next year, said Gomez.

Meanwhile, in a press conference held after the MOA signing with local officials, PSC chairman Garcia stressed that Negros Occidental was chosen as the venue because the province and the City of Bacolod has proven time and again that it can successfully host national and even international events.

Garcia also clarified that the events can be witnessed not only within the four cities but also in other towns and cities, considering that the 120 kilometers cycling event will pass many major town in Negros while the marathon will begin from Murcia town. El kilometers north of Bacolod City.

PSC Commissioner Jose Luis Gomez explained that this week long event will be open to all Filipinos, whether playing in the Philippines or abroad. He also clarified that some elite event will be participated by some national team players ,it will serve as a venue to scout new talents to join the national colors, particularly for the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games and the Olympics.

Gomez also said that these players who will have outstanding performances will have a shot to the national pool. As for as the budget is concerned, Garcia disclosed that P30 million will be spent for this week long event to be participated by athletes from 17 regions across the country, including the national team managers.

The games will open on May 22 in time with a 5km, 3km and 10km fun run that will coincide with the start of the marathon race. Following the run will be the celebration of Olympic Solidarity Day and the commencement of 100 Years of Sports in the Philippines through a show featuring Filipino athletes and celebrities. The fun will be open to everyone for free and the Bacolod city organizers are expecting 10,000 runners to participate.

All participating athletes can avail of discounted rates in Aquaferry and Negros Navigation from any port in the Philippines and will have free accident insurance coverage while participating in the games. Sports Science seminars on Sports Nutrition, Strength and Conditioning, Sports Psychology, Injury and Pain Management and Ethics 1.0 through Sports will be held during the games and will be open to the public. All interested athletes can register online through psc.gov.ph. For inquiries on the PNG please call 405-1000 or e-mail at pressgames.secretariat@psc.gov.ph.

The country's top sports leaders and local government heads are city mayors Evelio Leonardia for the secretary of the host Philippine National Games slated May 22-29 in key cities in Negros Occidental. They are (from left) Talisay City Mayor Arlie Tarañon, PSC chief Ricky Garcia, Silay City Mayor Old Montelibano, POC president Peping Cojuangco, Bacolod City Mayor Ding Leonardia, and PSC commissioner Jolly Gomez.

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PHILIPPINES NATIONAL GAMES
2011 SPORT EVENTS

		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Opening								
1	Marathon / 10K / 5K / 3K								
2	Athletics								
3	Badminton								
4	Beach Volleyball								
5	Baseball								
6	Boxing								
7	Gymnastics								
8	Judo								
9	Football								
10	Lawn Tennis								
11	Motorcycle Sports								
12	Sailing								
13	Softball								
14	Soft Tennis								
15	Swimming								
16	Taekwondo								
17	Volleyball								
18	Weightlifting								
19	Wind Surfing								
20	Wrestling								
	Closing								

		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	Baseball								
2	Canoe-Kayak								
3	Dragon Boat								
4	Muay Thai								
5	Wushu								

		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	Archery								
2	Arnis								
3	Sepak Takraw								
4	Triathlon								

		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	Archery								
2	Arnis								
3	Sepak Takraw								
4	Triathlon								

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PLDT

Aplus METRO
Editor Ricardo S. Ulanday

Alleged gunman in BIR exec slay arrested

By Marlon Ramos

NEARLY two months after the killing, police have arrested the alleged gunman of a Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) official who was shot dead as he was walking to work in Antipolo City the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) yesterday said.

Armando Cardin, alias Manding, was arrested by the combined operatives of the CIDG and Rizal police office in his lair in Antipolo on Friday afternoon, according to Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., CIDG director.

"The arrest of Cardin was part of the nationwide aggressive drive of the CIDG to run after wanted persons involved in violent crimes and heinous crimes ... (and) bring them to the bar of justice," Pagdilao said in a statement.

He said Cardin was tagged by witnesses as the man who reportedly shot BIR director Alfonso Morales Tuyan down (sic) while he was on his way to his office on Feb. 17.

He said the arrested suspect has been charged with murder, along with his cohorts Andy Cardin and a certain Tony.

Pagdilao was certain that Cardin's arrest would lead CIDG investigators in identifying the mastermind and in determining the motive of the killing.

Police said Tuyan had just alighted from his service vehicle before a man with a .45-cal. pistol approached him and shot him at point-blank just a few steps away from the BIR office along Marcos Highway in Barangay Mayamot.

Tuyan, 46, died instantaneously from the bullet wounds on his head and chest.

The assailant immediately

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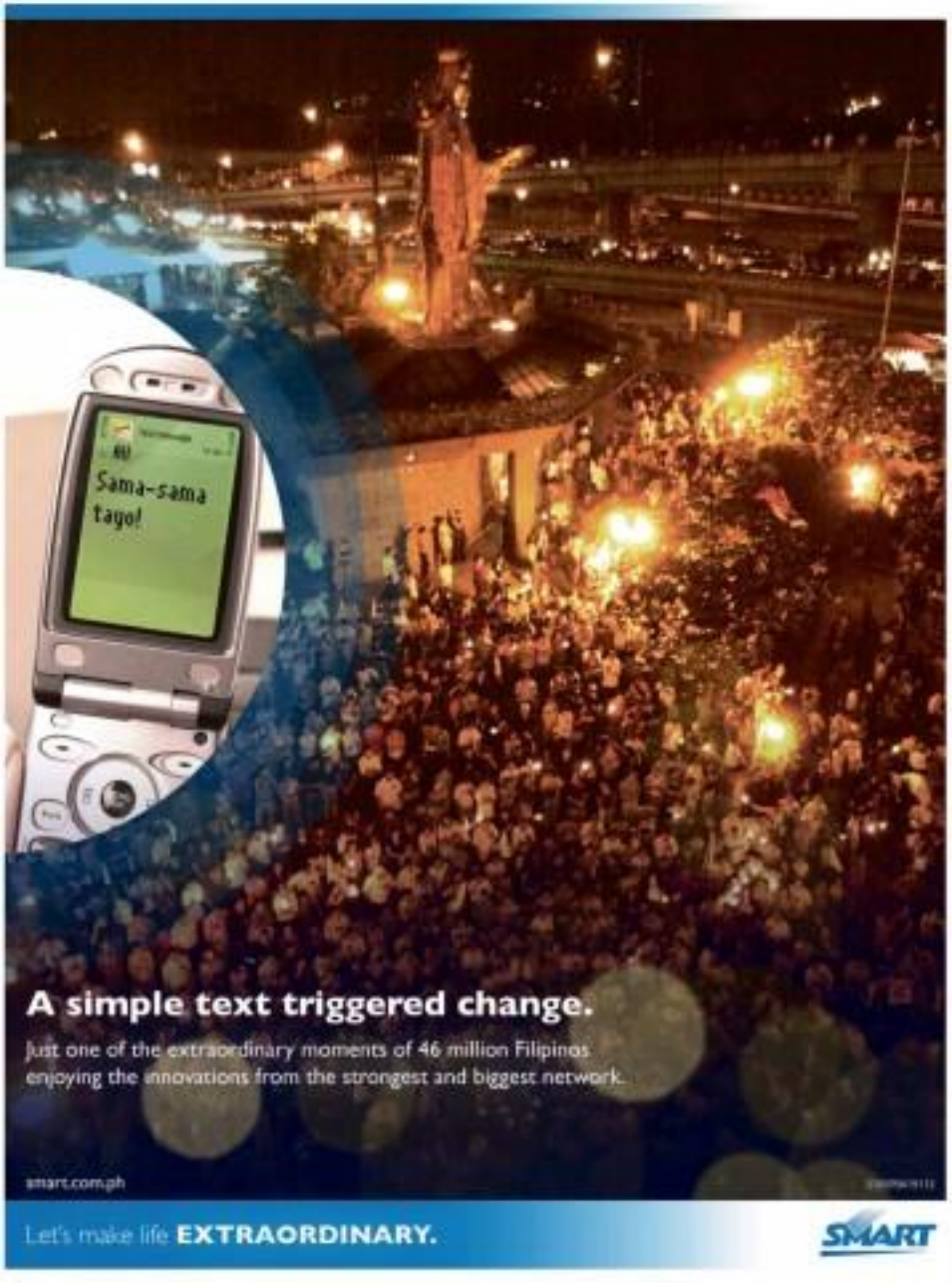

Malabon execs act to avert land sinking

By Kristine Felicia Mangunay

TO AVERT what officials have called a worsening case of land sinking in Malabon, the local government has signed a memorandum of agreement with the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) that empowers the former to monitor and impose deep wells in the city.

Engineer Reynaldo C. Antazo, head of the City Environment and Sanitation Office, said that the impositions were necessary most without them, excessive groundwater extraction by households and companies could lead to land subsidence or land sinking.

Beyond the quantity

"Once you extract water from the ground, the soil and underground voids adjust to fill the space that was left empty. That is why you cannot extract water beyond the quantity prescribed by the NWRB," Antazo explained.

Under the Water Code, the NWRB has the sole mandate to conduct these inspections, as it is the lead agency responsible for "ensuring the optimum exploitation (and) utilization ... of the country's water resources." It, however, "has difficulty" in monitoring all those existing deep wells because of its nationwide jurisdiction, Antazo said.

Deep wells monitored

The MOA signed by Mayor Canuto "Tito" Oreta and NWRB Executive Director Vicente Paragas at the Malabon City Hall dear residents any inspection to monitor the 14 deep wells recorded... mostly owned by business—in the city and several others that are privately owned and/or illegally installed.

The city inspectors, who will first undergo training in the NWRB before they are deployed, will then submit their own recommendations to the agency, Antazo said.

"If a factory extracts more water than it should from the ground, are will include that in our report. Then the NWRB can impose the necessary sanctions on it," Antazo explained.

The MOA came on the heels of a study conducted by five Ateneo de Manila University post-graduate students who reported that the trend of unusually high water levels during high tide in Malabon was the result of land subsidence.

EASTER RITE
Filipina Joshua and Jordan Lay, both nine years old, and their mom, gather around a giant egg per up in front of the Shoemart Center in Makati City to done for today's celebration of Easter Sunday. This day also marks the end of the Lenten season.

Woman watching Lenten movie dragged away, raped by 2 men

By Julie M. Aurelio

A VIRGIN woman watching an outdoor Lenten movie in her neighborhood was dragged away and raped by two men on the night of Good Friday in Quezon City.

But because of the victim's quick wit, barangay tanodmen were able to arrest one of the suspects, identified as Emilano Kim Cruz, 28, a resident of Kapilapan St. in Barangay Doña Imelda.

The alleged rape incident happened at around 11 p.m. inside an abandoned house along Kapilapan St.

Case investigator PO3 Wincris Casem of the Galas police station's women's desk, said the 26-year-old victim claimed that before that, she was watching the movie on a large screen with other residents in the area.

In the middle of the movie, she and one of the suspects allegedly picked a fan inside at her side and the command to kill her if she would not go with them.

The victim, also a resident of Kapilapan St., claimed that she man, then dragged away and taken to a vacant house nearby where she was allegedly raped.

After the two suspects left, the victim quickly reported the incident to the barangay hall.

Responding barangay tanods, identified Cruz at his home at around 12:30 a.m. Saturday while police have identified a mandatory for the other considered fled suspect.

Alleged gunman in BIR exec slay nabbed after nearly 2 months of search

From page A1

boarded a waiting motorcycle driven by another man and tried to escape. Seeing what had happened, the victim's driver, Dante Tang, gave chase and rammed the motorcycle with Yap's Toyota Innova.

However, the perpetrators were still able to flee the area, leaving behind the damaged motorcycle.

Police investigators later discovered that the motorcycle was registered under Andy's name which, in turn, helped them identify Cuetho as the gunman.

Two BIR employees who had witnessed the crime later identified Cuetho through his mugshots when he was arrested for illegal possession of firearms in 2008.

METROBRIEFS

Sleeping guard shot dead by fellow guard

A SLEEPING security guard was shot dead by a fellow guard inside a construction site in Quezon City yesterday morning following an argument over money. Police identified the victim as Abel Estrella, 38, an employee of the BSV Security Agency. Investigators stressed the shooting happened inside the Yokohama Compound Rental Enterprises at Tabo-Lubasan along Mindanao Road, Barangay Payong Tamo, around 6:40 a.m.

The suspect, identified as Leonardo Abubakar, 28, escaped after the shooting incident. A construction worker told police he heard a gunshot from the barracks and watched there to check. He then saw Abubakar coming out and telling him he was just testing his shotgun. When he peeked inside, however, he saw Estrella shot in the face.

Julie M. Aurelio

Cops arrest 4 over Good Friday rob case

MANILA police were rounded up late Friday afternoon in four separate, including two minors, just hours after they allegedly carjacked more than P500,000 worth of jewelry and electronic gadgets the established house of an elderly businesswoman whose family was on vacation for the Holy Week.

Arrested were Oliver Ivan Padua, 20, and Reynaldo del Rosario, 23, both brgy. Barangay, and two minors aged 16 and 17, all residents of Leo Street in Tondo. Police said the suspects were identified by a neighbor of 84-year-old Isaac Rosaleda he barricaded the same persons who allegedly broke into her house on Friday morning along Pampanga Street in Tondo. Police disclosed that the break-in happened between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. of Good Friday, with the suspects making sure that the Fernandezes had left for Holy Week vacation.

Jun M. Pamatian and Jeannette I. Andrade

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TAPATAN

Probers eye foul play in teen's 'suicide' case

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Ayee N. Macaraig

HOMICIDE investigators have not discounted foul play behind the shooting death of a teenage peduista student after receiving reports that he had allegedly said on himself two days ago in front of his father in Manila.

Mark Justine Campugan, 19, of 827-A Bulacan Street, Barangay 375 Zone 16, Sampaloc, Manila, died in a nearby from a bullet wound to the right temple. But Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section personnel have not located the .38 caliber revolver he had allegedly used on himself.

PO3 Roman Layugan, case investigator, revealed that the incident happened at around 7:45 p.m. on Thursday inside the boy's room.

Before the alleged suicide, the teenager, his father Teddy Campugan, and their neighbor Luigi Tangaro, engaged in a drinking spree in an alley just across their home.

After downing several bottles of beer, the group decided to call it a night and the younger Campugan proceeded to his room in the second floor of his home.

Several minutes after, the elder Campugan heard a gunshot coming from his son's room. When he checked the room, he found his son, clad only in a pair of boxer shorts, lying in a pool of his blood on the floor, a .38 caliber revolver lying near his body.

"The father threw the revolver outside the open window," Layugan pointed out, adding that it was after the gun was disposed of that the elder Campugan reported the incident to the police.

The case investigator stressed that efforts to locate the gun proved futile and those of the Crime Office personnel were only able to recover two live .38 caliber revolver ammunition beside the body.

Security watch shifts back to Metro

By Miko Morales

EXPECTING a deluge of residents going back to Metro Manila, security personnel are shifting their focus back to terminals and ports of entry beginning today according to the chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

For the past three days, deployment of police personnel were concentrated in places of convergence like shrines, parks and tourist destinations, explained NCRPO chief Director Nicanor Bartolome.

"I placed more of our patrols in shrines and places where there were a lot of people," he told the Inquirer over the phone yesterday.

Since more travelers had already left Manila as late as Thursday Bartolome said he ordered troops to monitor areas where there was a high concentration of tourists to prevent.

Inspections

On Saturday morning, the NCRPO chief went around Manila to inspect the deployment of personnel, most especially on the ropes at the Lawaan, the city's premiere public park.

Bartolome observed the increase of park visitors particularly the number of foreign visitors. He pointed out that the holidays were an opportune time for tourist police to deal with people.

"We in the (Philippine National Police) want to show that we are friendly cops, we not only provide security, but also handle encounters with any queries they might have," he said.

The NCRPO chief expressed satisfaction on security deployments and patrols after his Metro-wide inspections.

Resolved immediately

He also took note of a number of crime incidents that transpired the past three days, but quickly indicated these were resolved immediately.

Elements of the Quezon City police district operation unit arrested one robbery suspect in Barangay Socorro the other day. Bartolome said the police managed to arrest the suspects because they were doing a routine patrol in the area.

"We also recovered all the items they stole and returned it to their owners," he said.

Police also monitored a stolen Toyota Fortuner on Friday at a subdivision in Parañaque and a unit entering which Bartolome swelled at the heightened police visibility. Manila policemen also collared a group of thieves who broke into a house.

Bartolome said he intended to make the NCRPO's Summer deployment "a template" for future holidays, tweaking the security plans's finer points as needed back.

"For example, we already shifted our deployment beginning Thursday from terminals to places of convergence because there had been less travelers and more tourists in churches," he explained.

Come taste the tastiest Milkfish in the World!

When the Bangus Festival was conceptualized six years ago, it was meant to showcase the province's premier product, but in the process it has evolved into a festival with international flavor.

That has been achieved, and for the last seven years it has been dubbed as the Bangus Capital of the World.

Bangus Festival has metamorphosed into one of the country's top festivals, drawing thousands to this province. It is now the pride of the province, a showcase of the fish prized right here in the waters of Lingayen Gulf.

This summer Dagupan City offices and residents will be busy preparing for Bangus Festival. Lots are being done, including parade floats, and booths that all over the world where it celebrates the biggest and longest festival in the country.

The Bangus Festival Committee, partly chaired by "Bangus Queen" Sheena Marie Sagmit, was presented as the Bangus Festival Ambassador to the Philippine Tourism Promotions Board (PTPB) in Manila last month.

Now, meet and greet Bangus Festival? Here are dates of the ways:

Bangus sa Dagupan

On April 30 (Saturday), a parade featuring the colorful bangus-based festival floats, showcasing the different products and delicacies made from bangus, will start at the Perez Boulevard, Brgy. Bonuan Gueset, Boulevard, 10:00 AM. The parade will be participated in and witnessed by the city people.

Meeting the Bangus on Session an after a presentation of the opening salvo by a number of Caesars Festival and other Bangus event. (Courtesy of the Dagupan Festival)

Cash-Cash sa Palan

Simply, this is street dancing, where most females are made of the fish and become an "bangus festival" practices to the city. Thousands of bangus girls and boys in street dancing will be seen in the city, showing their heart as they depict the agricultural practices of the bangus industry.

Beauty Contests

Beautiful and talented girls will compete and prove their competitive this May Night, 2011 (Starts the night of April 29 at the City auditorium). A Mister Gwapo contest will also be held on April 29, 10 PM night of April 30.

At the City Plaza, "pick" will surely get your food wishes to pass the Mister Gwapo Festival contest 2011.

101 ways to cook Bangus

Cooked any way, Bangus is always a winner. Yet we agree that there is more to bangus than grilled, sinigang, or fried. Let the chefs and chef wannabes show us the amazing ways to cook the capital fish. Join us on the afternoon of April 30 at the City Plaza.

Bangus Bonog

This is another beauty contest, but it involves one girls or guys, but bangus. Want to see the bangus that is oozing with sex appeal? Or the "sexiest" and the biggest" bangus? Then join the Bangus Festival Committee in this unique competition on April 29 starting at noon in the morning, at the Dagupan Market.

Kalokan sa Palan

This festival will reach from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. Guests of honor, dignitaries of the world's tallest milkfish in the record-breaking bangus grill dubbed as Kalokan sa Palan on April 30. Frequently starts at 11 AM and ends at 12 NN. Don't be highlighted by a fireworks display.

Beach Party

The bangus festival will culminate with "BEACH PARTY" and yearly coronation night on May 1 (Sunday) at the Lucao Beach, Dagupan City. The Bangus Festival Queen is expected to have leading powers. The parties will be benefited by a Bangus Festival Queen. Proceeds from the beach party will be used for the benefits that Dagupenos continue to enjoy.

Not just merrymaking

The Bangus Festival organizers have numerous important civic activities to make it to assist in global standards, but Mayor Lim has assured the people that the festival will not be wrong the municipal regulations and ordinances. Dagupenos are not just about parties, pageantry and merriment.

More than anything else, it is about caring for the citizens and their environment, the people of the city's waterways. Thus, dangerous planning is an issue a part of the Bangus Festival, with different sectors participating in the watchdog activity. Some 5,000 Dagupenos (watchdog organizers) are planned along the river banks to protect the city from waste spoilage, sewage, river nuisance and soil erosion.

River Cruise

The increased property values are the beauty of the city river has been introduced was not between any by the city government this April. The Pantal River Cruise will be Cruising trips has improved recreational that can seat 40 persons.

Nature lovers are invited to take a cruise along the Bonuan Gueset of Dagupan where the paved new walkers and fresh green mangroves, and the birds peacefully gliding among the trees enjoy the view and relax and see the birds and nest.

The becoming of River Cruise as one of the festival's highlights aims to give outsiders to Bagan Lony, an environmental advocacy, bringing two areas focus the proper management of the city's river systems and strict enforcement of fishery and wetland ordinances.

It is also to showcase the rivers which have been cleaned of fishery structures like pukots the waters and clog the navigational lanes.

Bonuan Regional Director Marlo Nelson of the Department of Tourism hailed the project, saying "it will surely captivate everyone who is interested, not only because it is a new product, but it promises it is unique."

Mayor Lim said the project also creates job opportunities for the people, like vendors, workers, boatmen and others.

"The bottom line is to preserve a tourist and environment. Friendly and a clean and healthy nature habitat for the human beings, especially children whose great taste has earned world patronage and the reason why the bangus festival came into being initially and only 3rd largest in the economy before as the Bangus Capital of the World.

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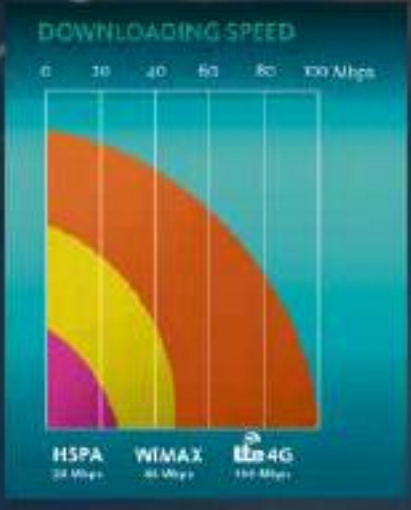

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GLOBAL Pinoy

Edna Monica Paria

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

When God closes doors . . .

By Cesiano Mayor Jr
Contributor

I WENT home from work that night with a heavy heart. I had just lost my job as a subeditor with the Saudi Gazette in Jeddah where I had worked for the past six years. I was 62.

Losing my job at the twilight years of my life with an eight-year-old daughter and a wife in look after was excited. With only a little savings in the bank, we were not prepared to go home.

It was one of the most trying times in my life. How do I find for my family? We came to Saudi Arabia to escape a harsh life in Manila and the prospect of going home unprepared was a nightmare.

In that time, we were planning to migrate to New Zealand. My wife, a nurse, 14 years younger than I, had already passed the exams and was ready to go. When I got my termination notice in January 2010, I saw that dream collapse. We had to use the money we had saved for that purpose for more immediate needs.

Tragic news

Through shattered, I told my wife about the tragic news as calmly as could. "Don't be alarmed," I opened up as she arrived home to take us out for a late meal at Al Nakheel Mall. "I got fired from my job and we have to go home by the end of the month."

I saw shock in her eyes, in which I learned her that I could still work as a subeditor in Manila and work my way up or switch to the other work I was used to have back home before I went to work in Saudi Arabia.

My wife, who quit her job to take care of our daughter when the child was born in 1997, wasn't convinced and pleaded with me to look for another job, any job, as a lifeline until we could move to New Zealand or any other western country.

Grace period

As I always do in my trying times, I prayed for divine guidance and later asked my editor-in-chief to allow me to look for another job instead of accepting my hasty resignation. When I returned from completing my grace period, I had a month to look for a new job. But it marked only the beginning of a love story.

After failing to get a job with the Arab News, the only other English newspaper in Saudi Arabia, I discovered that I could hardly find even an ordinary office job. My wife, who also started looking for work, did not fare any better either. My problem was my age: here was an eight-year gap in her employment record.

Since my family joined me in Jeddah in 2006, we have been holding our prayer-prayer sessions. Through our trial, my wife would occasionally feel a mood anger against God for "abandoning" us.

I told my wife that probably God was just testing our faith. He held us to faith. From my experiences, I learned to print out the content in Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will show you the right path."

Growing desperation

In time, as I grew more desperate since my applications for published job vacancies got no responses and the referrals of friends failed to get results, I got an unexpected call from a Filipino, a friend of our next-door neighbor, working in a construction company. He offered me to see another Filipino in charge of hiring workers for a project company, another construction company involved in power plants and related projects.

I got interviewed and was asked to report the next day. I told my friend to call me up his job as the Gazette. God has endowed me with genius that makes me look 10 years younger than my age and I got lucky for that personnel manager who interviewed me did not bother to look into my curriculum vitae.

I was offered a clerical job that would pay a third less than my previous salary. I asked him to report for work as soon as the permit that the Gazette had asked me to stay for a while. I was still hoping to find another job with better pay. I told me that I'll be back.

My wife acted unconcerned. Little when I told her about it as soon as I got home. It turned out that she had failed to get a job she had applied for on the same day we joined for divine counsel. I prayed to come to terms with the heart of Francis" Jesus who was still at his office with Francis at that time. About 30 minutes after we said our prayers, my cell phone rang. It was Francis, telling me his boss signed my work contract at last.

My wife and I wept. We embraced and shed tears of joy. The next day my wife called up a hospital where she applied for a job the previous week. She was told to go there to sign her contract. We got our jobs a few days apart in August.

A long hardship trail

End of one tunnel? No.

Seven months after I started working in the construction company, I almost lost my job in a new trial that would further strengthen my faith afterwards. That was in February 2008, shortly after we moved in a new office. Francis, fulfilling my wish from a man with forty issued orders.

As early as two months from my job, I started telling my wife how unhappy I was, and that I wanted to quit working in the boss' temper. She pleaded with me to hang on until I could find another job. Five guy was not enough for us to live by. I took guidance but it did not take long for my boss to snap.

It happened one morning while he was raising about my performance. I had no chance to explain. "I can't take this anymore and I don't care if you fire me," I told him and turned away. As I went back to my desk, he called me to Francis, who was our point-of-office, to clear my account.

"I'm sorry I can't help you this time. You shouldn't have talked back," Francis whispered when he arose me to my desk. Another Filipino, Gilbert, met IT engineer, offered his sympathy. I put up a brave front. "It's history," I told him. "God will take care of me."

Deep inside I was devastated. How would my wife take this? I prayed silently, "Lord, I don't understand all of this, but I trust you. Please don't leave me in the middle of this evil."

Another coincidence?

While I was packing my things, Francis told me one boss wanted me to stay. I learned later that our Filipino secretary's boss was the 60-year-old office to take telephone calls and examine the fax messages while the communication from to the new office were being my age, did not expect her work that morning. I was to take his place in the meantime. He never showed up after that.

Francis made it clear to me that it was a holdover job that may last only three months. I must start looking for a new job. When the communication from to the new office was being set up, I had no chance to explain. "I can't take this anymore and I don't care if you fire me."

I was back to my desk, but I was

Top US military officer warns of stalemate in Libya

BENGHAZI, LIBYA—The top American military officer warned on Friday that the conflict on the opposite of Libya threatened to become a stalemate, but the Obama administration and military officials said that neither the United States nor its allies planned to fundamentally alter the Nato-led air operations despite indications that they were not doing enough.

Adm. Mike Mullen, the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that a month of air strikes had destroyed 20 percent to 40 percent of the capabilities of the military forces loyal to Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Gadhafi, but had not yet dramatically limited the country's ability to continue military operations in the east or another. He cited shifts in tactics by Libyan forces that made it difficult for Nato warplanes to distinguish them from the rebel fighters and civilians.

No. 2's footsteps a much more difficult fight, much more difficult targets," Mullen said in Baghdad, where he visited American troops involved in another American war. "So I have observed in recent days, essentially it's very much stalemate-like in the vicinity of Ajdabiyah and Brega," two critical oil-industry towns of the capital, Tripoli.

His remarks were echoed by those of the most prominent American yet to visit the rebel strongholds in Libya: Sen. John McCain, departing on Friday in Benghazi, he, too, said the military stalemate as he walked on the United States is essentially to another on pro-Gadhafi forces, using aircraft like A-10 jets and AC-130 gunships that the White House and Pentagon have pulled from the fight, citing the need for their services in other parts of the ground and saying rebel war planes should take the lead.

McCain, a strong advocate of interventions in Libya, called for the United States to recognize the rebels' governing council as the country's legitimate government, as France, Italy and Qatar have done, and provide it with money and arms in a scale similar to what the United States did to support of those who fought the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

"I have met these brave fighters, and they are not al-Qaeda," said McCain, R-Ariz. "They are Libyan patriots who want to liberate their nation." His comments came after a brief visit that included meetings with the members of the Transitional National Council, led by a former justice minister, Mustafa Abdul Jalil, and a former interior minister, Abdel Fatah Younes, who both defected when the uprising began in February.

McCain's visit, though coordinated with the White House and the state department, nonetheless underscored a mounting sense of frustration among rebels and even some supporters of the Obama administration that it was not acting aggressively enough to help the rebels overthrow Gadhafi.

Although this week, President Barack Obama authorized the use of armed drones in Libya and a $25-million assistance of nonlethal military supplies for the rebel forces, the administration remains deepening the American military involvement, which on Thursday, whether American soldiers or military should be sent to help impose the effectiveness of the rebel forces, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Obama had explicitly ruled that out. "And there is no wiggle room in that," he said.

Instead, administration officials have pleaded for patience. They said that while it could take weeks or months for the rebels to shatter as fighters, they asserted that the operation continued to weaken Gadhafi's military and that sanctions and an arms embargo allowed the United States "quite aggressively, both unilaterally and multinationally, to put the squeeze on Gadhafi," as the White House spokesperson, Jay Carney put it on Friday.

"I think it's important to remember that Gadhafi's resources are limited," Carney told reporters covering with the president. In Washington from California. "And the arms embargo and the sanctions that have been put in place will, as each day goes by, make it harder and harder for him to function and for his regime to function."

Military officials said the greatest shortcoming among the ragtag rebel military was not weapons but training, communications systems and a versatile command structure. *New York Times News Service*

Japan sets aside $48B for 1st step in rebuilding

KAN

TOKYO—The Japanese government committed almost $48 billion in emergency spending on Friday for the first step in the country's largest reconstruction effort since World War II.

The $48-billion budget is likely to be followed by more spending, as Japan takes on the gargantuan task of rebuilding the section of its Pacific coastline ravaged by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Parliament is expected to pass the budget next week.

At least 14,133 people have been found dead, an additional 13,346 remain missing and more than 130,000 still live in evacuation centers. Government estimates put the total damage from the quake and tsunami at $300 billion.

The nuclear crisis set off by the tsunami has added to the human and economic toll. On Friday, the government banned residents from a 18.5-km evacuation zone around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, where several reactors have suffered explosions and radioactive leaks. A previous order urged that did not require evacuation from that zone; the government still recommends that residents leave it they are within 20 miles of the plant.

"We all share the hope that reconstruction does not mean a return to where we were, but the building of a brighter future," Prime Minister Naoto Kan said in a news conference.

"I feel it was my time to be prime minister at a time of great adversity," said Kan, whose handling of the crisis has been criticized sharply in Parliament and in the country at large.

Japan has rebounded from prior catastrophic disasters. The 1923 Great Kanto earthquake, for example, killed as many as 140,000 people and brought widespread destruction to Tokyo. It also is thought to have wiped out almost 40 percent of the country's gross domestic product. In comparison, the death toll from the March 11 quake and tsunami is far lower, and the economic damage is likely to add up to just a few percentage points of GDP.

Still, Japan faces different challenges now, which could weigh heavily as it rebuilds: a rapidly aging population, a long-stagnant economy and public debt that is already at twice the size of its economy, thanks to its profligate public works projects of the 1990s.

That debt burden adds serious obstacles to financing the great reconstruction. Among cures, for which there appears to be a measure of political support, will changes in steady rapid personal consumption levels, forcing more government bonds sell sold to the ballooning dollar.

Adding to the country's troubled horizon, Kan's grip on leadership appears to be weakening under the withering criticism, including charges that he bungled the initial response to the nuclear crisis, causing it to worsen.

The president of Fukushima Daiichi's operator, the Tokyo Electric Power Co., visited an evacuation center on Friday that houses those evacuated from around the crippled plant.

"I have no words to express my regret," the president, Masataka Shimizu, told the evacuees after making his way through cardboard beds and blankets. TV cameras in tow, he knelt on the ground and bowed deeply...the ultimate gesture of apology in Japan.

Some refugees listened deeply back, while others heckled him, "We all just want to go home," one told him quietly. *New York Times News Service*

WORLD BRIEFS

Mubarak faces more questions on gas deal with Israel

AMID GROWING public suspicions about corruption and mismanagement that characterized Egypt's secretive Mubarak-era regime, the country's prosecutor general has ordered that Egypt's public prosecutor will today to attend the questioning of former President Hosni Mubarak for 16 days, judicial officials said.

The announcement, carried by the government-run Middle East News Agency, came after the agency reported that the former oil minister, Sameh Fahmy, and four other top officials had been imprisoned pending an investigation of the deal. Adel el-Gamel, the prosecutor's spokesperson, issued a statement saying that among other issues, Mubarak was being questioned about gas exports to Israel at a low price that amounted to "hurting the country's interests." Egypt had more than $7.14 million in the deal, the prosecutor said in a statement carried by the semi-official Nile day earlier. *New York Times News Service*

Study: Tens of millions live in nuclear 'danger zone'

PARIS—Some 66 million people worldwide live within 30 kilometers of a nuclear reactor, environmentalists of a nuclear reactor, environmentalists said Friday, the nuclear zone around Japan's crippled Fukushima plant, a study released on Friday showed. The United States alone has nearly 16 million people within this range, followed by more than one million each in China, Germany and Pakistan, and five to six million in India, Taiwan and France. While the radius is expressed in miles, the number of people potentially at risk in case of a nuclear accident jumps to nearly half a billion, according to the analysis published by Nature. *AFP*

Royal wedding drawing a yawn from many Americans

HOW fascinated are Americans with Prince William's and Kate Middleton's nuptials next week? According to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll, not very. Only 6 percent have been following news about the wedding very closely, and an additional 20 percent are following it somewhat closely. Women are paying much more attention to the wedding than are men, particularly older women. A third of women under 45 are following news of the wedding at least somewhat closely, as are more than four in 10 women who are 45 or older. In comparison, half of those are not following news of the wedding at all. "It's their British thing (it's their country," Edward Fahey, 57, of Cape Horton, Conn., said in a follow-up interview after the poll was completed. "I guess they enjoy it, but it's just not something I'm interested in." *New York Times News Service*

From Ninoy to Noynoy:
25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

Three Decades Reporting: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer" marks the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspaper of record.

From the eagle to the comic, and the many shades in between, the Inquirer's 25th anniversary offering highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the waning days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power I, the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of the early 1990s to the second Edsa People Power at the turn of the century. It would not be beginning, as the son of the women whose husband's death sparked its founding becomes the country's 15th president.

Alongside this history of the Philippines' people, the book is also the story of the Inquirer's growth in these years, from a paper financed by a peasant engagement ring to a group of over a dozen publications with a presence in print, broadcast, online and mobile.

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Lita Lorente B. Sueco

The WORLD

81 slain in bloodiest day of Syrian unrest

BEIRUT—Security forces in Syria met thousands of demonstrators with fusillades of live ammunition after noon prayers on Friday, killing at least 81 people in the bloodiest day of the 5-week-old Syrian uprising, according to protesters, witnesses and accounts on social networking sites.

From the Mediterranean coast and Kurdish east to the steppe of the Iranian in northern Syria, protesters gathered in at least 20 cities and towns, including in the outskirts of the capital, Damascus. Cries for vengeance intermixed with calls for the government's fall, marking a potentially dangerous new dynamic in the revolt.

"We were revenge, and we want blood," said Abu Mohamed, a protester in Azaz, a northern town that had the highest death toll on Friday. "Blood for blood."

The breadth of the protests—and people's willingness to defy security forces who were deployed en masse—pointed a picture of unrest in one of the most repressive authoritarian countries. In scenes unprecedented only weeks ago, protesters tore down pictures of President Bashar Assad and toppled statues of his father, Hafez, in two towns on the capital's outskirts, according to witnesses and video footage.

One skeptic, the "bloodbath," which generated its midweek standout day of unrest as the dead are buried on Saturday, the ends of the protesters, so far, seemed to fall short of the popular upheaval of revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia. Organizers said the movement was still in its infancy, and the government, building on 48 years of institutional inertia, still commanded the loyalty of the military, economic elite and sizable minorities of Christian and heterodox Muslim sects who fear the state's collapse.

Coming a day after Assad enlivened the lifting of draconian emergency rule, the killings represented another chapter in the government's strategy of alternating promises of concessions with ugly crackdown that has left it staggering but still entrenched.

"There are indications the regime is scared, and this is adding to the momentum, but this is still the beginning," said Wissam Tarif, executive director of Insan, a Syrian human rights group. "Definitely, we haven't seen the millions we saw in Egypt or Yemen. The numbers are still humble, and it's a reality we have to acknowledge."

The images of carnage marked one of the deadliest days of the Arab Spring, and the coming days may be replete with its lessons. As other places in the Middle East, violence has led to freezes where many more are often killed. The government's belated attempts at reform, meanwhile, have often simply escalated protesters' demands.

In that, the government faces perhaps its greatest challenge: to maintain the fractions of support with promises for the future and threats that its collapse means chaos, against the movement's assertion that the vivid symbols of martyrdom have in effect managed.

"We are not scared anymore," said Abu Nadim, a protester in Homs, a town on the outskirts of Damascus. "We are sad and we are disappointed at this regime and at the president. Protests, demonstrations and sit-ins are now part of the daily routine."

In a sharply worded statement, President Barack Obama said the "outrageous use of violence to quell protests must come to an end now."

The statement also said that Assad was making "empty promises" to reporting his people but did not provide details. — New York Times News Service

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Ginebra eyes title berth again

By Mycong R. Cantila

BARANGAY GINEBRA and the Smart Gilas Pilipinas five tangle again tonight with the Gin Kings looking to close out the Nationals in their PBA Commissioner's Cup semifinal series.

The fourth game of the best-of-five duel is set at 6 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao with the Gin Kings looking to bounce back after a Game 3 loss and end a best-of-seven title series with Talk 'N Text starting Wednesday.

Ginebra's Jeng Ticzon and Smart Gilas' Rajko Toyotaat both said after a 118-103 win by the Nationals on Wednesday that they have the utmost respect for each other, though they feel different stakes how things have gone down in the series.

"They (Nationals and Toyotaat) are going away from what their system is by going to (Marcus) Douthit more often," Ticzon said. "He's (Douthit) 6-foot-10 and it's already a disadvantage to any team, not just in Ginebra.

"They are playing 6-5's (Toyotaat) in the PBA," Ticzon added. "Can they do that in the Fiba Asia (Olympic qualifiers)?"

No matter how much Toyotaat went inside to Douthit, Ginebra fell mainly because JV Casio dropped three third quarter triples on the way to a team-high 20 points, a testament to how the wily point Gordo down the Kings' perimeter defense.

And it is the talent of his players which Toyotaat said was the key out anything else.

"Nobody can say that we play dirty or aggressive," Toyotaat said. "We are playing in very difficult circumstances. Win or lose, I will congratulate my players because it is very, very tough playing in the Fiba.

"We play with our skills, with sportsmanship and fair play," he added. "The coach of Ginebra said we are playing physical when they (Kings) receive the least fouls in the league. I don't want to talk anymore because the commissioner will punish me."

Talk 'N Text made the Finals also Wednesday night after pulverizing Air21 for a third straight game, giving the Tropang Texters a shot at a second straight title and closer to a coveted Grand Slam.

Import Sean Brumfield will again be the focal point of the Ginebra offense.

Lascuña still tied for 5th

JAKARTA—Antonio Lascuña broke par for the third straight round with a 2-under 70 Saturday and remained in contention for a top 10 finish in the $750,000 Indonesian Masters.

With earlier rounds of 67-68, Lascuña stood at 9-under 207 in a four-way tie for fifth, nine strokes behind world No. 2 Lee Westwood of England, who shot a second consecutive 66 for a five-stroke lead with a 200 total.

Angelo Que was the only other Filipino in the field to...

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Costly World Cup buildup for Azkals

By Cedrik P. Tupas

THE PHILIPPINE football team's buildup and participation in the 2014 Fifa World Cup Qualifiers won't come cheap.

Azkals team manager Dan Palami said the team will need about P35 million for the first two rounds of the qualifiers, including the two-week training in Donru, Germany in June.

"It's a different level, that's the reason why it will really cost us," Palami told the business.

Palami, who has been bankrolling the squad since late 2009, hopes more business will support the squad's campaign for a place in football's centerpiece event in Brazil.

PALAMI

The bulk of the expenses will be for the training camp in Germany, where the Azkals are expected to face second and third division clubs.

From Germany, the Azkals will fly straight to Colombo for the first leg duel with the Sri Lankans on June 29. The second leg is set July 3 at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

"I'm sure the training in Germany will give us the necessary preparation for Sri Lanka and hopefully, Kuwait, in the next round," said Palami.

"Our June camp will be crucial for our team in terms of cohesion," said Azkals' German coach Michael Weiss.

The winner of the Philippines-Sri Lanka duel will move to the second round opposite Kuwait in the third week of June.

Palami is confident that the Azkals will be at full strength for the World Cup qualifiers with highly touted right-back Stefan Schrock, who has recovered from a knee injury recently, and striker Dennis Cagara, who signed up with a British first division side, expected to make the squad.

Mikee looks a sure PNSA bet

IN HUDDLE

Rivfo Cuvlit

WHILE he should be thinking of making his rest and recreation during his two-week vacation in Europe, Harbour Centre's Mikee Romero smelled, instead, the whiff of something an offer to head the Philippine National Shooting Association or PNSA.

Should he or should he not? Mikee said he welcomes the sage counsel of well-meaning friends and elders, yours truly included.

Mikee said he should have asked for the blessing of the Pope in this matter. He said he had just been in the Vatican in time for the burial of Pope Benedict XVI, a rare privilege which was arranged by an Italian priest-friend from the Capuchin order.

Mikee met with Bhutia-ese directors of Indra Pte., the outfit with the miraculous shipmate who is from the Zapatista series. The couple believes their religious mission is in Tbilisi (He helped heal their youngest son of a serious kidney disease.

In the event he becomes PNSA president, Mikee said the first order of the day would be to entice the five groups in the association: pistol, rifle, moving target, practical and S-ISSF.

"If ever, I will need to talk to the different camps before anything else. There are different personalities involved here and they have their respective group. Tac Padilla, Ad Manzapagal, Boy Tevanged, James Chua and you, even Rumbel Tobenbros with whom I had a falling out on cycling. But we're OK now. We will be working closely together if I join the shooting association."

Mikee has sat down with Tac, who has intimated that he thinks Mikee will do well as president of his association.

"We has the solution to our problems. Problem is, I need to sell-sell yet, but the program to be described verbally to every second," Tac said.

If ever, Mikee said one of his priorities would be to work to include shooting among the sports in the UAAP and the NCAA.

"That will be one of my priorities. Thus I will draft a strong program for the youth. I want our shooters to be world-class."

I have a feeling Mikee has already made a decision about the office. Shooting is a very rich source of medals, especially in the Southeast Asian Games because there are so many events in the sport. But there has been a dearth of shooting medals for the Philippines for consecutive now.

According to Tac, even if the PNSA embarks on a sound program at the earliest possible time, it will take a while before we produce medals.

Binay to grace Dapitan Palaro opening ceremony

By Marc Anthony Reyes

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay has confirmed his attendance even as organizers of the 2011 Palarong Pambansa said yesterday that Dapitan City is 99 percent ready to stage the equestrian on May 8 to 14.

Former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos told the Inquirer that Binay, the new president of the Philippine Badminton Association, has already declared his intention to attend the opening ceremony although they are not discussing the possible appearance of President Aquino as guest of honor.

"We are only pacing the finishing touches or the events. We are ready to go," Jalosjos said over the phone. "In fact, the education department declared on April 6 that we are ready and it is held the Palarong Pambansa."

He said some 14,000 athletes and officials from 17 regions are expected, adding that the senior Region 5 (Central Luzon) delegation has arrived to sample the venues that include a newly built oval track and field oval and two-pool swimming pools.

This year's Palaro will also coincide with the 156th birth anniversary of national hero Jose Rizal, whose birthday falls on June 19. Rizal put the place in the historical map when he was exiled there by the Spanish government in the late 1800s.

Jalosjos, a top supporter of junior tennis hopeful Kiefer Francisco, said they have prepared a star-studded opening rites that will feature young superstar Isiah Lorenzana.

SUMMER NEXT BLASTOFF Young swimmers begin their summer clinic in the FILA Integrated Sports Learning Academy headed by Mikee Ivda and supported by Summer Olympian Rol Rosario and Mon. For inquiries, call 686-5 189, 847-2933 and 09(2)-6867946.

Hawks, Lakers, Celts up

ATLANTA—Jamal Crawford hooked in a three-pointer with 3.7 seconds left to lead to 88-84 win for the Atlanta Hawks over the visiting Orlando Magic on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Lakers snatched the New Orleans Hornets, 109-98, on the road to join in the Knicks in taking a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven NBA playoff series.

The Boston Celtics mercilessly overpowered the New York Knicks, 113-96, to raise the excitement of the first playoff game in Madison Square Garden in seven years. The Celtics now have a commanding 3-0 lead in the series.

In Atlanta, Crawford scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half and made the game-clinching three in the dying seconds of a nip-and-tuck contest.

"I just tried to give my team the best shot, my best shot," Crawford told reporters. "I felt pretty good getting there.

"I thought I got a good look, and it just happened to go down for me."

Al Horford gave the Hawks the lead at 85-84 with 46.6 seconds left.

Atlanta led for much of the game, but the lead changed four times over the final two minutes following an altercation which led to the ejection of Atlanta's Zaza Pachulia and Orlando's Jason Richardson.

"I thought we played really much more strong as the second half, and then got us back into it," said Orlando coach Stan Van Gundy. "But this is the playoffs and you can't play 24 minutes of defense."

Joe Johnson scored 21 points for Atlanta and Dwight Howard led the Magic with 28 points and 15 rebounds.

In New Orleans, the Lakers pounced on the Hornets in the opening quarter and pulled away in the final period to regain home-court advantage.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 30 points and Pau Gasol recorded a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Carl Landry led the Hornets with 23 points and Chris Paul 22.

In New York, the Celtics sprinted to a 22-5 lead eight minutes into the game and led comfortably from start to finish. Boston will attempt to complete the sweep in a Sunday.

No NBA team has recovered from an 0-3 deficit to win a postseason series.

Rajon Rondo led the Celtics with 20 points. Ray Allen hit eight three-pointers among his 32 points and Rasheed Wallace had a triple-double with 15 points, 11 rebounds and a Celtics franchise playoff record 29 assists.

The Knicks bench answered the stars led by Shawne Williams 17 points. Carmelo Anthony scored 15 points on just 4-for-16 shooting from the field. Reuters

ATLANTA Hawks guard Jamal Crawford makes a shot in the closing seconds over Orlando Magic guard Jameer Nelson to seal the Hawks' victory in Game 3 of their playoffs series. REUTERS

Nadal nears another clay event finals

BARCELONA, Spain—Rafael Nadal cruised into the Barcelona Open semifinals Friday by dispatching Gael Monfils, 6-2, 6-2, and David Ferrer moved a step closer to a semifinal rematch with Nadal by defeating Juan Monaco 6-4, 6-4.

NADAL REUTERS

The top-ranked Nadal needed only 75 minutes to get past the ninth-ranked Frenchman, who was broken four times.

"The result is a very positive one, a very good game," said Nadal, who is 20-1 at the clay-court tournament, which he is looking to win for a ninth time. "I'm very happy since this is a matchup between two of the best players in the world."

Ferrer, who lost to Nadal in the Monte Carlo final on Sunday, moved a step closer to his fourth title outside of the year by dismissing Juergen Melzer 6-2, 6-3.

Melzer slammed his racket into the red dirt after serving to set up set point for Ferrer, who converted it when the Austrian's return sailed long.

Nicolas Almagro, who will clash a career-high 10th when he challenges second-seeded Ferrer, beat Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-3, 6-3, to set up the all-Spanish semifinal with Ferrer, who leads their head-to-head record, 6-0. AP

PAYMAN, CHECO Grandmaster Eugene Torre (seated, right) and Manila Mayor Chevy Feldemor (president Johnny "Joel" Garcia shake hands before making the ceremonial moves in the 5th Primitivo "Boyet" Manuel Memorial chess tournament which started recently in Pinamalayan City.

Street Soccer League set in May

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Sunday SPORTS

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Crucial SSC bid vs FEU

By Jasmine W. Payo

SURPRISINGLY STILL winless, San Sebastian makes a desperate bid to avoid early elimination in the Shakey's V-League today.

The Lady Stags gamble on two new guest players as one of the early favorites despite the last Group A quarterfinal berth against the Ateneo University at 4 p.m. at the FEUH Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Stags, runners-up in three of the last four conferences, tapped Filipino-Swiss libero Jennifer Salgado and brought back Thai import Jirog Shadow as replacements for guest players Suzanne Roces and Cherry Macatangay.

"We hope Bongie will change," said San Sebastian coach Roger Gorayeb, adding that the entry of Salgado may help the Lady Stags improve their floor defense.

Ik Ibrahim will also try to stay alive against Adamson in Group B action at 2 p.m.

Beaten soft last Friday, last Gorayeb expressed confidence that the former league MVP remains familiar with the team's system.

The Lady Stags—aiming to close campaign like the Lady Tamaraws—are also expecting the return of Joy Dexter from injury.

Ateneo, Southwestern, Lyceum, Adamson, Perpetual and University of St. La Salle have already entered quarterfinal slots.

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

THERE are just nine 600-ton hydraulic presses in the country. One is owned by AIPMC.

RGC tends to vehicle parts soft and hard

Laguna compound showcases extent of group's operations

By Vanessa B. Hidalgo

WHENEVER URIAH TIX is mentioned, what comes to mind are soft yet durable things on which to lie—pillows and mattresses, mainly.

Uniixx is but one of the many companies belonging to Robert Cheng's RGC Group of Companies.

A pioneer in the manufacturing industry, Cheng established Uniixx in 2006. The company later became one of the leading polyurethane foam manufacturers in Southeast Asia.

That's not all.

After exploring part of a 10-hectare compound in Cabuyao, Laguna, the diversity and extent of the RGC Group came to reveal itself.

From manufacturing foam products under the Uniixx label, the RGC Group has diversified into plastics, textiles, automotive and industrial parts.

Call to assemble

In 1975, then President Ferdinand Marcos called on the manufacturing industry to assist him with a vehicle to be assembled in the Philippines.

One of the few who answered the call was Cheng. He established Robetex Automotive and Industrial Parts Manufacturing Corp. (ARPMC).

Today, Robetex ARPMC has grown so big that it now employs over a thousand men and women working in five factories. In addition, each factory is equipped with state-of-the-art technology from Japan, Germany and Italy.

Over the years, Robetex ARPMC slowly expanded the line of vehicle parts it manufactures.

In 1995, it created its own brand of radiator called Evercool.

Evercool is noted to have higher cooling efficiency with more water tubes and cooling fins. Each radiator undergoes a series of rigid tests before it passes quality control.

From radiators to mufflers

Atoang Entrecoop's growing clientele is Mitsubishi Motors Phils. Corp., Honda Cars Philippines, Isuzu Philippines, Nissan Motor Philippines, Columbian Motors, Pilipinas Hino, Universal Motors Corp. and Norkis Yamaha.

Evercool has a factory area of 1,200 square meters and has the capacity to produce 15,000 units a month. It has 2,000 models of ra-

NEXT

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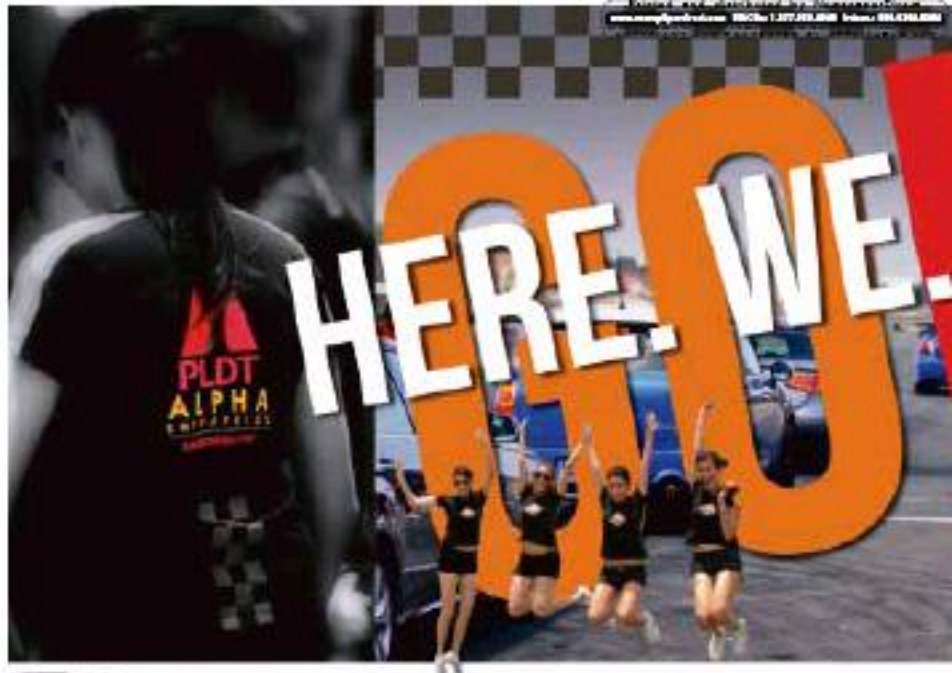
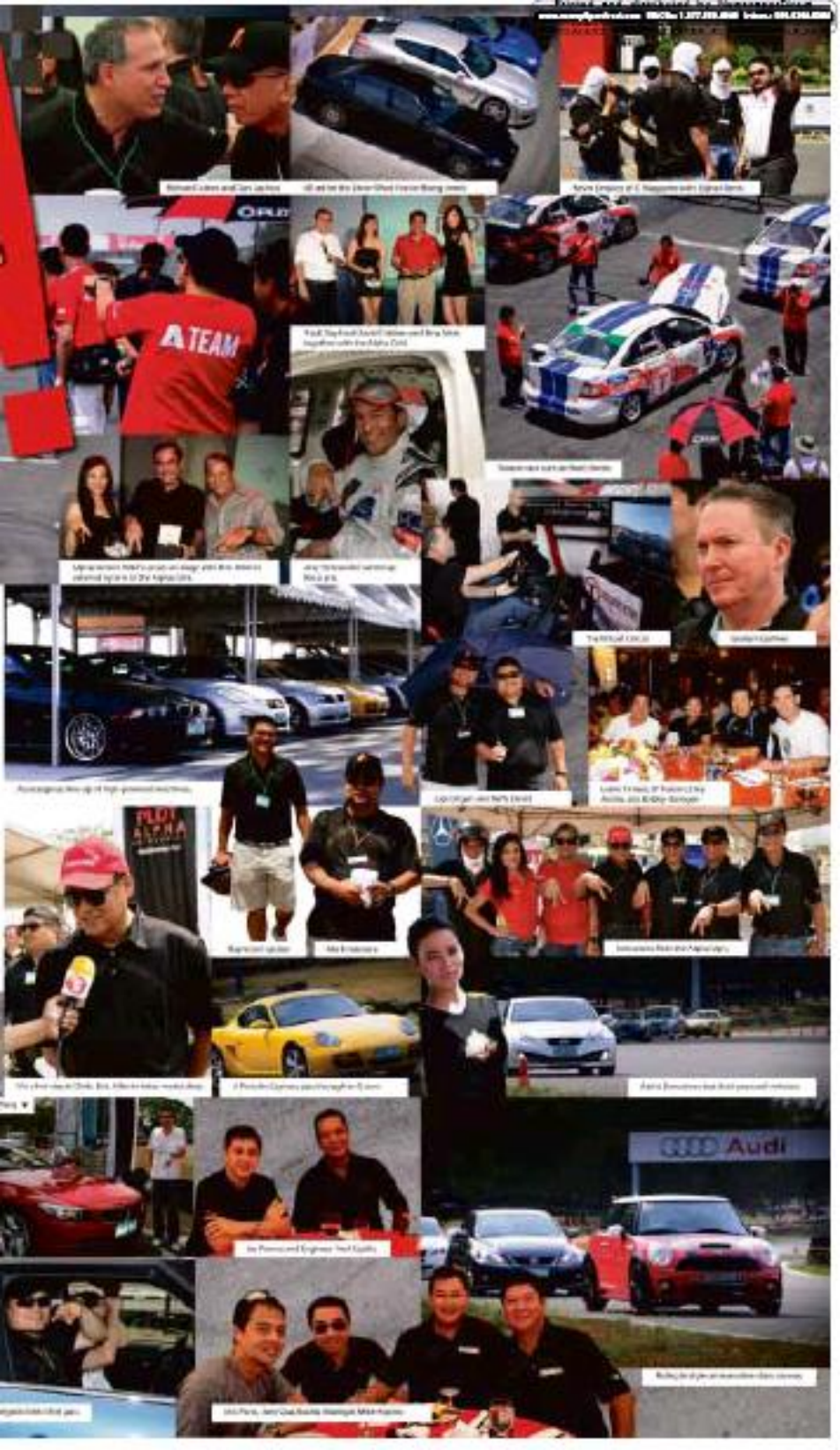


PLDT ALPHA ENTERPRISE TAKES OFF WITH A ROARING START

At the Clark Speedway, the race prepped fresh features at the Formula Racing School. Intermediate Rookie (IR), and Advanced Rookie (AR) categories. Each driver was also challenged to a timing line. They were modified and factory-sitting at least ten laps, to test endurance and also to familiarize with various first-timers driving rubber on asphalt.


A TEAM
Audi

Sunday BIZ

Don't use a hammer to swat a fly off someone's head

MY WIFE, Margaret, and I were married in June 1969, and like most couples, we naively believed that nothing but smooth sailing lay ahead of us. Of course, it didn't take long for us to find ourselves in the kinds of minor disagreements that all couples experience, especially when they're first adjusting to married life.

Like most people, I thought I was right nearly all the time, and I let Margaret know about it. I've always been a good talker, and I can be pretty persuasive, so I used my skills to win our arguments. We never yelled or screamed at each other. It was always easy conversation, and soon after, but I always made sure I won. The problem was that with my approach, Margaret always had to lose.

And I truly didn't realize that winning at all costs could eventually jeopardize our marriage, until one day when Margaret sat me down, dissed how she felt about me in detail, and explained what it was doing to our relationship. It was the first time I understood I was putting winning the arguments ahead of winning the relationship.

From that day I decided to change.

HYATT HOTEL AND CASINO MANILA GAME EARNINGS ON POWER COSTS THROUGH HERALCO RATE PROGRAM: Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) wherein the hotel will receive additional savings exclusively upon its entry through Meralco's Customer Choice Program (CCP). Under the CCP, Hyatt will be enjoying lower power rates during off-peak hours, making its operations more cost-effective and efficient. The MOA was signed by (foreground, from left) Meralco Vice President and Corporate Business Group head Victor S. Rosales and Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila's outgoing General Manager Anthony Sebastian. Also present during the signing, which was held at the hotel, were Meralco Corporate Relationship Manager Gene Encarnacion and Manila Square Properties Incorporated (the hotel's owning company) Chief Executive Officer Christopher N. Lim.

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A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

Realizing that having the right attitude was more important than having the right answers, I softened my approach, listened more, and stopped making a big deal out of little things. In time, the wall that had begun to form came down, and we began building bridges instead. Over that time, five trade unsuccessful efforts to initiate conversation anytime I'm in conflict with someone I care about.

Let's face it. Because of their personalities, some people are inclined to use a hammer, even when something gentler will do. That's my natural inclination. But now, when tempted to use overkill, I try to temper my behavior using the following four Ts. You may want to estimate them when you find yourself in a similar situation.

1. Total picture

Do you come to conclusions long before the problem has been laid out before you? There's a common occurrence for most of us. To keep from hammering people with answers before they finished asking the question, I've trained myself to follow this process:

- Listen.
- Ask questions.
- Listen again.
- Ask more questions.
- Listen some more.
- Think.
- Respond.

I found that if I slow myself down, I'm more likely to respond patiently and appropriately.

2. Timing

When you act is as important as taking the right action. Even knowing when not to act can be important. Noted historian and writer Lady Dorothy Nevill observed, "The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but to know unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

It seems to me that the most common cases of bad timing in relationships is selfish concern. For that reason, when little things bother me, our number one objective must be pursuing some personal agendas aside and building the relationship.

Once you've examined your motives, then you need to ask yourself two timing questions: 1) Am I ready to confront? That's a prompt step once a moment because it's really a matter of whether you've done your homework. The second is harder: 2) Is the other person ready to hear? If you've laid a relational foundation, and the two of you are not in the "heat of battle," then the answer is more likely to be yes.

3. Tone

The writer of Proverbs stated, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Haven't you found that to be true? People often respond more to our attitudes and actions than to our words. And many petty conflicts occur because people use the wrong tone of voice. The next time someone starts disturbing to you in anger, respond with gentleness and kindness. In response, the other person is likely to tone down, if not soften, his attitude.

4. Temperature

As tempers flare, people are prone to dropping bombs when using a slingshot will do. And that can cause a lot of trouble because the size of a problem changes based on the heat applied to it.

In general, if the reaction is more heated than the action, the problem usually increases. If the reaction is less intense than the action, the problem usually decreases.

That's why I try to follow a self-imposed guideline: Use 1 like to tell the hypothetical Rule. Take thirty seconds to share feelings—and then it's over. Anytime we let a little thing create a big reaction (longer than 30 seconds), then we're using a hammer.

Psychologist Abraham Maslow once observed, "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail." That might work with some issues, but it's a terrible way to treat people. Relationships require more judicious treatment. Pay attention to the tone. If it is conflict, especially regarding the little things, and you'll be more likely to solve the problem while preserving the relationship.

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RGC tends to vehicle parts soft and hard

From page B1

dators, ranging from computer radiators to power-plant radiators.

The factory also hosts the call for environment-friendly processes. The radiator's painting section has a waterfall-like structure where water pushes the paint down while the fumes go up into an exhaust pipe. Later, the water and all undergo a filtering process before it is released into Laguna de Bay.

Later, Roberto ABMC went into auto-fibers and exhaust systems. In collaboration with Nissha Sangyo of Japan, the company's exhaust system plant is certified to have world-class manufacturing and quality-control processes.

Put up in 2007, the exhaust system factory sits on a 5,000-square-meter lot. It utilizes a computerized production line programmed to adapt to various chain specifications.

Every month, the plant produces 7,400 units and most imported raw materials to its manufacturing process.

Japan

The country's manufacturing sector is highly dependent on exported raw materials particularly those from Japan.

After a string of catastrophes struck Japan in March, many automakers such as Mitsubishi and Toyota had to reduce their monthly production of new motorcycle by half.

"We have no option but to adjust to what we are going to receive from our suppliers. Along into long income any requirement, open income any shoulders reasons (Whatever the requirement is, that will be the only thing we will deliver)," says Eddie Gallot, executive vice president of RGC group of companies.

Shesley Medina, managing director for RGC group of companies, admits that they are affected by the slowdown in business.

"But our group will not consider cutting back on manpower, Medina stresses.

"I'd rather see my employees draw overtimes for eight hours rather than remove them from their jobs," she said.

Medina is the eldest daughter of Chong, who passed away in 2006.

She believes there is still hope for the manufacturing industry in the Philippines.

"If you do it right, invest in technology (and create) strategic alliances, then there is room for very good manufacturers to thrive in the Philippines," she explains.

The group is now making the private electric motor vehicle to replace eight or nine CRGs (completely built units). These vehicles are shipped into the country fully assembled.

"Before, 90 percent of cars are assembled here. But now, we've down to 40 percent. It's because of the CRGs," says Gallot. "We're just asking [the government] to level the playing field."

Cushy

From providing foams for pillows and mattresses, Robert Chong also ventured into developing vehicle interior parts such as car seats, cushions, motorcycle saddles, integral skin for armrests and headrests, and fully upholstered bus seats.

Chong called this new company MidribTex INC.

In 2009, MidribTex received much needed help from a robot, who lent not only a hand but an entire arm to increase the company's daily output.

The Genso cutting head automatically pares chemicals needed to create and solidify foam. Two operators are needed for the robot to function, lifting up 54 moulds each day.

Apart from vehicle interior parts, the group also produces mannequins for first aid and CPR training used in the Philippine Heart Center.

Tiger—a German brand that has served Europe for over 120 years—came to the Philippines in 2008. Robert's ABMC started manufacturing the first pacabolic bed springs in the Philippines using the technology brought in by Tiger.

Leadsprings are key components of a vehicle's suspension system.

The 5,000-sq.m. leadspring factory has the capacity to produce 600 units semi-monthly.

And to finally cater to every original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) need, Robert's ABMC also went into the metal stamping industry.

Its 5,200-sq.m. factory has a full range of press machines from the lightest 110 tons to the heaviest—300 tons.

It is one of two suppliers in the country equipped with an 800-ton hydraulic press. The equipment is capable of producing large auto parts such as panel roofs and bumpers.

As in-house tool and die division—where clients are given the option to personalize tooling designs and fabrication—is also located at the factory.

The factory has the capacity to paint the vehicles red—or any other color of the rainbow—thanks to its complete painting line that answers every client's needs from spray painting to powder coating.

Assistant Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Tour de Force

By Cris Evert B. Lim
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—When he ventured into the car rental business, Edmerson Chua Barretto Jr. started with just a single vehicle. But after 10 years, his company now has 15 units.

Age has also embroiled on a travel and tour enterprise.

After graduating from the University of San Carlos in 1999 with a degree in hotel and restaurant management, Jun immediately worked as a cruise agent. Encouraged after six months when his father bought a Toyota Hi-Ace to be used by the family in Cebu.

"I thought about using the van for business since we don't use it that often," he relates.

In 2000, Jun first chose were guests of Cebu Plaza Hotel (now Shinco Pola Plaza). At that time, he was 22 years old.

To succeed in business, the Pagadian-born entrepreneur has to consistently seek out clients.

"And by constant pursuit, I mean going to hotels, approaching managers and tour operators offering our four-seater van," he tells the Inquirer.

It was a one-man show with Jun serving as driver, manager and tour guide.

Within a month, he earned P30,000 from drop-off and pick-up services, apart from the whole day rental and provincial tours.

THE BARRETTO couple

CEBU Day Tours was set up in June 2010

The amount was not even near the salary a regular employee would receive at that time. But this only encouraged him to work harder for his business to flourish.

In 2002, with the help of his family, he established the

TURN TO A7

Cabiao, Candaba set to grow sweet sorghum for food, fuel

By Terence Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CANDABA, Pampanga—Hot framing of sweet sorghum in the last six years showed crop productions in the Philippines to be 50 percent higher. Even in India, increasing the crop's potential as a source of food, fodder and fuel led to local communities investing more in crop scientists.

Dr. Belum Reddy, principal scientist of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat), said research done through linkages with universities and colleges in Bicol, Ilocos, Central Luzon and South Cotabato showed that sweet sorghum can be "planted throughout the year in major islands of the Philippines."

It can also be grown during the rainy months, he said.

Icrisat—a nonprofessional and nonpolitical institution based in India, promotes the cultivation of sweet sorghum for various uses. The institution is headed by Dr. William Dar, former secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

In the Philippines, Icrisat works in consortium with local governments and national agencies, like the Department of Science and Technology.

The DOST has helped some villages produce vinegar, sweet syrup, juice, bread and starch from sweet sorghum.

"The grain is food for people, fodder for animals, the stalks for ethanol fuel and the bagasse for biocomposit," Reddy said in a presentation made for Mayor Glenn Gregor of Cabiao, Marvin Ejoa, and Bilaco Jerry Pelayo of Candaba, Pampanga.

DOST helps villagers produce vinegar, sweet syrup, juice and starch from sweet sorghum

The towns are neighbors, both within the 32,000-hectare Candaba Swamp.

"Food security is number one (priority). Food security must not be sacrificed," Reddy told the locators.

Cosico said the Cabiao government started growing sweet sorghum last year, initially using 18 hectares.

"While the yield showed to be good, we don't have the equipment to process the crops. Also, our farmers need marketing support. That's where the partnership must focus on," she said.

Pelayo said that he wants sweet sorghum to be cultivated after rice is harvested. This means a window of three months for farmers wanting to rally online their funds.

Growing sweet sorghum takes three months while planting and harvesting sugarcane, a major source of ethanol, lasts 10 to 11 months.

Agricultural lands in Cabiao span around 7,000 hectares while Candaba has almost 16,000 hectares.

Reddy said trial productions indicated that ethanol production from sweet sorghum is "cost-effective," with a ton producing 40 liters of biofuel.

He said that crop has high water use efficiency. It can be propagated through stalk

CABIAO B7

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OFW receives brand new Isuzu Crosswind from Smart

A NEW Isuzu Fuego SUV not bought by an ordinary OFW at the Manila-Ocho International Airport made his dream of owning a brand new family car come true.

Jesus Bautista Tinio, a 34-year old pipe fitter operator in Saudi Arabia, was recently rewarded a brand new Isuzu Crosswind as the culmination of the annual "Smart Pinoy Grand Salubong" held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Because of this initiative from Smart, my children will no longer have to ride on my neighbor's motorcycle to attend school," shared Tinio.

"This Isuzu Crosswind is something I didn't think we could have in just my three years as an OFW," he added.

Smart Pinoy Grand Salubong is an annual three-month activity of telcos Smart Communications Inc (Smart) aimed at providing returning Filipinos with a grand welcome at the NAIA and Mactan-Cebu International Airport arrival areas.

"Over the years we have progressively lessened the scale of our services and designed our offers to truly enable overseas Filipinos and their families back home to stay connected," explained Gabriel Ramos, head of international services at Smart.

"We are honored to partner with an industry leader in reorganizing and delivering our returning balikbayans with the full help our dear Smart, such as the homecoming, long hauling, and flexible loan vehicles," shared Tirsito De Leon, Isuzu Philippines' public relations senior manager.

Over 1.6 million active Smart Pinoy SIMs worldwide – the largest community of roaming users – benefit from Smart's partnerships with 468 network operators in 170 countries. This worldwide network coverage gives Filipinos, wherever they are in the world, a direct line to their families in the Philippines.

Smart is the Filipinos' biggest mobile network in the world, serving 45.6 million subscribers on its network as of mid-2010.

PHOTO shows (from left) Kathy Garag, head of international services at Smart; Tirsito De Leon, PR, advertising and sales manager at Isuzu; Yolanda Trop and family; and retired Major General Romeo Tolentino, senior assistant general manager at MIAA.

BDO, WWF PARTNER FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Banco De Oro Unibank Inc (BDO) and WWF-Philippines have teamed up for a cause that would help celebrate and encourage the Kalahoodoo eco-tourism program in Siniloan, Laguna through research and data and environmental activities that encourage the ATM network of BDO across its coverage for easy and affordable way to execute the WWF Initiative.

MANILA WATER P10 BILLION CORPORATE NOTES

First Metro Investment Corp (FMIC) president Francisco Sebastian (left) affirms the Manila Water Corporation buy-back agreement for the notes with Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Lacap (ret) as he looks on. Manila Water Corporation during the signing of the consigned agreement for the notes with FMIC as lead underwriter and Metrosecurities Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank) and Philippine Savings Bank.

The proceeds of the issue will be used to partly fund Manila Water's investment plan for 2011. Also in photo during the ceremony are (seated, from left) BPI Trust and Asset Management Group vice president Angel Ruben Pineda, Metrobank Trust vice president Cesar Quintos, Philippine Savings Bank vice president Federico Juanchito Bingo, Metrobank vice president Dennis Cuna Jr., and Manila Water president and CEO Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

PHOTO shows (from left) Kathy Garag, head of international services at Smart; Tirsito De Leon, PR, advertising and sales manager at Isuzu; Yolanda Trop and family; and retired Major General Romeo Tolentino, senior assistant general manager at MIAA.

RUNNER RUNS AWAY WITH STORE OF THE YEAR AWARD

RUNNER was named "Store of the Year" at the recent 13th Annual Ayala Malls Management Awards night at the Kidzery in Greenbelt 5.

Premiere Philippine store dedicated purely to running wins also gravitate "Store Operations Excellence Award" in the same event. The Ayala Malls merchant has consistently shown its synergies in the leadership and marketing departments of its merchant partners in the crucial aspects of marketing and operations. RUNNER, which is located at the third-floor Glorietta City (SSC) and the Ayala Mall in Cebu, another "Store of the Year" award after running the highest in marketing, visual merchandising, packaging among other BBC merchant establishments. The "Store Operations Excellence" award was given to RUNNER for the most outstanding operation and exemplary cleanliness, organization, and conformity with rules and regulations as it brings only the best and most scientific running gear for amateur and professional athletes. Besides offering premium range of running gears, RUNNER has also become the "Home" – a combination of these value-of-the-art services that will fully define what the word means in every sense. And this, high-speed rides, gait analysis, and "Runner's" system have existing properties, which are the customized running shoes for runners with extra-cushioned support.

RUNNER is also the first to bring in the revolutionary line of Newton Shoes to the Philippines. Newton shoes are uniquely designed to help runners run more efficiently by reducing the impact of running shoes and supported many have running injuries. RUNNER are affiliate of the Runner's Group of Companies, is the first store in the Philippines, and possibly in the world, that offers cutting-edge technologies and services under one roof. For more details on RUNNER log on to www.runner.com.ph, or check out the RUNNER mobile network online on Face Book and Twitter (www.facebook.com/RUNNERPH) and www.twitter.com/RUNNERPH. Its photo are (from left) Chris Lorna Zobel de Ayala, Ayala Corp vice and CEO; Bobby Dandin, RUNNER Today's president and CEO; Jose Claudio Jr., RUNNER Today's president; and Antonio Aquino, Ayala Corp president.

HEALTHWAY MEDICAL OPENS 7TH BRANCH IN GREENBELT 1

Healthway Medical, the pioneer and leading medical clinic chain in the country, recently launched its 7th branch in Greenbelt 1, in response to their consumers' demand for a healthway. This is Healthway's biggest expansion program to date which will establish a better health for corporate clients. Healthway Greenbelt 1 offers greater convenience to its customers who live and work in Makati as it provides utmost spacious waiting area and executive lounge, both with flat-screen television sets and Wi-Fi connectivity for the use of its patients. It is also equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment. Healthway Greenbelt 1 offers a range of minimally invasive surgeries such as cataract, endoscopic, and orthopedic surgeries. Other services on offer at the clinic include executive check-up, laboratory, and diagnostic services, dental, OB/Gyne, dialysis, imaging services, pharmacy, annual physical and pre-employment examinations, psychiatry, plastic and general surgery and rheumatology consultation which is the destination spa in Tagaytay. Healthway is a one-stop drop-zone that offers unrivalled wide range of medical services in cardiology, dermatology, physical therapy, family medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, internal medicine, and general surgery among others. Its pool of doctors comprises the best professionals in various fields of medical expertise. Healthway

has ISO satellite clinics in corporate offices and is affiliated with no less than 500 clinics and hospitals nationwide. Business Greenbelt 5, Healthway also has clinics at the Shangri-La Mall, Glorietta, The Block, Market! Market! Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center and Robinsons Place Manila. Its clinic hours are from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Due to overwhelming response, visit www.healthway.com.ph or call 753-1888. In the photo are (from left) Mary Chatterbox, Philippine Retirement and Healthcare Group Chief Executive Officer; Carmencita Lopez, Healthway vice president for sales and marketing; Dr. Eleanor Tan, Healthway president and Baltazar del Rosario, Makati City councilor.

WINNERS OF INTERNATIONAL ICT AWARDS 2011 REVEALED

In a fully packed, grand recognition ceremony at the Super Friend Hall, the Department of Science and Technology and DPA Business Process Association of the Philippines announced and awarded the winners of the country's international ICT awards. Filipino owned DPI Global Solutions, the country's largest locally-owned outsourcing provider, was named DPO Company of the Year in accepting this award, DPI Global Solutions president Maude Rosario, visibly elated with pride that many DPI leaders and the world-class operations Filipino executives have, while the revenue is now the most active industry. Independence, a finalist in three categories, brought home the trophy for BPO Employer of the Year while Ortigas Center, which was also a finalist for the Location Enabling BPO of the Year award, Herald Philippines won the Best Video Conference of the Year award and Sandra Sebastian Reyes, Genpact country manager, was honored as the ICT Individual Contribution of the Year. These three finalists prevailed over the rest in the new location, innovation and shared services conference awards. Cognizant was named Best New BPO Location. Previously, Bruntwood was named Best Shared Services Practitioner award, and FirstCarbon Solutions was awarded Best Innovative Company of the Year. Outgoing BPAP CEO Oscar Ramos who is on his last official functions, was given a surprise tribute. Photo shows the International ICT Awards 2011 winners (from left) Dwight Dimaculangan, country manager, Cognizant Philippines; Cassandra Soto, Philippine delivery leader, IBM Global Processing Services; James Overmyer, Group CFO, FirstCarbon Solutions; Maude Rosario, CEO, DPI Global; David Bell, president, Asia Pacific, Intelligent Office; Sebastian L. Reyes, Emmanuel "Boo" Mendoza, director of Philippine Center; Herbert Packard Bulk Foods (Hongkong) Ltd. RCHS; and Raoul Sin, senior vice-chair, Thomson Reuters Ebeca.

Earth Day at the Ayala Triangle Gardens

MAKATI: In the Ayala triangle on Sunday, April 24 will mark the celebration of Earth Day with interesting activities that are aimed at promoting a closer friendly mindset and environment. Beginning at 12 noon, ten learning stations at the Ayala Avenue corner Dela Rosa and Legaspi Street will feature cool and interactive shows that will interest the young and old alike. These include: how eat for kids using tetra pack cartons, a driving simulator for the young, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.'s Eco-Driving and Honda eco-efficient car, demo of how to transform plastic bags into accessories, exhibit of water sources by Manila Water Corp, energy efficiency initiatives by Ayala Property Management Corp (APMC), and an exhibition on composting, bottle and seedling propagation, proper tree planting methods. The learning stations will be open from 12 noon to 8 pm. Starting at 4:30 pm, at the Ayala Triangle Gardens, Alonso and team "from the "greenest man alive," Matthew Gaffney, enticing Filipino to love Mallapod to speak about how we can all be better stewards of the planet. There will be with songs that pay homage to Mother Earth, featuring singer and songwriter Lou Bonanno. There will be complemented by film makers. This event is presented by the Makati Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ayala Land, Inc., Manila Water Company, Inc., Philippine Savings Bank, Philippine Eco Tourism Association, Mapúa-AP REC, Earth Day Network Phils, Barangay Sanz Lennon, and the following activist partners: Philippine Earth Investor Society, Sentech Solar Metalix, Terra Phils Philippines, Energy, and Manila Water.

Easter eggs for a cause at Resorts World

MANILA: With only twenty days to go before the Resorts World at the iconic World Manila presents "Easter EGGstravaganza", a showcase of giant eggs designed by celebrities for a very special cause. For personalities were each given a giant egg to design with each one dedicated to a charity of their choice. Actress Angelica Panganiban, Filipina women model Ellen Marasiga, model and actress Jolina Magdangal, and actor-entrepreneur Tim Yap are among the celebrities who have already signed on. The Philippine Children's Medical Center, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Virlanie Foundation, Sagip ng Child Asia Philippines, and Chosen Children's Village, respectively. Donations received from Private Viewing gives Sachio her stress relief in dedicating her eggs to her nonprofits Mission Schools, while Cecile Van Etsaler of Cherrianne's cons selected the Missionary Sisters of the Catechism in Lipa, Modelo Lacsa Yatt Dimaapi, known for choice to Bonifacio Child Welfare Association, and Jolina Magdangal to Bahay ng Pag-asa Foundation. Organizers of the Easter EGGstravaganza aim to help the Safety Center of Beautiful Philippines which aims to create awareness for city/MDC units celebrity-stylist Arianne Manzano "made eggs for the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). Guests can view these celebrity-designed eggs on display at The Newport Mall until May 12. Through with the most spectacular "Hunt" on facebook will host. To vote, please visit facebook.com/worldmanila. For more information, visit Resorts World Manila, call 855-0888-8000 or visit www.rwmanila.com.

BF Rotary raffle postponed

PASTE RAMOS JERRY Lucas, chair of the "Pinpoking Pulot Ing Raffle" of the Rotary Club of Parañaque announced that the club's scheduled raffle for Sunday, April 24 at the UBB Mall Parañaque, BF Homes, Parañaque City will be held instead on July 8, Saturday, same time and venue. Other incentives and prizes have been added on top of the 25 and Singapore's tax for two, plus 12 other consolation prizes. All tickets previously sold will still be honored. For more details, call or contact 0920-9071121.

Easter goes 'green' at The Heritage

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila in cooperation with the Earth Day Network and Greenpeace joined the dual celebrations of Easter and Earth Day to double the delight of diners in the extravaganza filling and environment-friendly special lunch buffet and brunch activities on April 24, noon hosted, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Riviera Cafe. Children are encouraged to indulge in fun-filled egg-hunting activities and participate in the search of a most "Save the Planet" Do the Spot Drawing for Color Contest to win a fabulous prize. Artworks are sketches on paper, scanned, printed on cotton material and meticulously planted on a cube for a memorable and yummy souvenir. The Heritage Hotel hosts a sustainable lifestyle in its buffet event. All the materials and prizes used in the Easter festivity are recyclable and Earth-friendly. The Easter Trek, tents, spoons and meal containers for guests are made of bamboo, rattan or made of 100% biodegradable, compostable and GMO-free potato starch while the tents and crafty activities for participants and the little ones are geared towards instilling the 3Rs of re-use, reduce and recycle for nurturing positive Earth. As a culinary indulgence, executive chef Alex Nico and his delicacy experts prepare festive menu. For reservations and requirements, call 844-8888, e-mail heritage@theheritagehotelmanila.com.

Easter 'Wild Hunt Party at Marriott Manila

EGG-OUT sets the scene of the wild side at Marriott Manila where you better fiercely fun world of the jungles. Strictly no-no adventure. Wild afternoon with the Easter Wild Hunt Party will be happen on April 24, 3 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom. Gear up to this most happening Sunday event for only P500 inclusive the buffet for the kids and adults. Relax could be another best way of bonding with the whole folk that attending to Jungle-inspired decor as everyone enjoys a host of activities from face painting, magic show, egg hunt, with an exotic bird and reptile show. Be the kids could for more treasures and hunters from cookies, chips, and toys, the whole family will surely take delight to the fancy afternoon inside out especially prepared by executive chef Nikki Boromeo. To make it extra special, Paul Bloqui and Guillermo Mary's live for Barbie to bringing all their delightful cool Easter treats with their iconic performances. Stretch the party with a Jungle-themed overnight magic, all participants will take home a gift bind packed with cookies and snacks. The little ones will surely appreciate a meet and greet time with Smiley, Chocolo, and Cutie mascots, plus an opportunity to have a lifelong souvenir photos with them. Catch another holiday excitement as Bonaparte returns overnight time brings home a photo souvenir with the whole family. For a more information and reservations, please contact Ms. Marivel Mayo on makati@marriott.com.ph or Ms. Rhea Mendoza at 887-9000 loc. 6000 or visit www.marriottmanila.com.ph.

Learning road safety and living it

THE KIDZMO Safety Crossing Center (KSCC) is a new, non-profit company that is pushing road safety promotion and driver education. The KSCC aims to create a new generation of responsible road users through progressive, methodical and carefully-designed road safety education programs. More than a six-months-in-the-making project, this initiative is being pushed by Kidzmo to help improve the current road safety situation in the country, which has gone from bad to worse in the recent years. The KSCC operates a world-class 2.4-hectare integrated training facility along East Service Road, South Superhighway in Northeast City with a training circuit and a simulated road network where learners can practice real and automobiles can experience all types of actual traffic and road conditions via safe, controlled environment. The tracks are designed to give vehicles and pedestrians the opportunity to practice a wide range of driving maneuvers and scenarios that are commonplace in the cities and on a public road. While road safety and accident prevention will continue to be critical issues in the Philippines, it is reassuring to know that companies like the KSCC is enabling Filipinos to learn safety so they can live it. For more information visit www.funandsafetydriving.ph.

A sizzling summer awaits you at SPS

KICK OFF your summer by treating yourself to Sizzlin' Pepper Steak's debut, the Sizzlin' Whipped-It-Into Composed of three awesome variants, the Beef 'N Pepper Wrap, Chili Chicken Wrap, and Spicy Fish Wrap – these are great summer snacks for kids and the young at heart. Each wrap set also comes with a serving of thick cut fries and a refreshing glass of your favorite Coca-Cola product. Speaking of Coca-Cola products, this summer, Sizzlin' Pepper Steak has come out with a treat-set edition; Coca-Cola and Sizzlin' Pepper Steak Restaurant is a fun summer trip that everyone in the family – and all your friends will surely enjoy. The limited edition "Sizzlin' Pepper Steak and Coca-Cola Kiddie Combo is all right for diners who'll have a minimum purchase worth of P500 (exclusive of taxes and service charge) and a glass of any Coca-Cola product will get Sizzlin' Pepper Steak branch. Also, watch out for this weekend's Pepper Steak Mania promo. For as low as P599.00 P1,199, indulge in your choice of group set meals that are good for five and offers an awesome selection of SPS favorites.

Airphil Express offers lowest seat sale

FLY TO some destinations like Puerto Princesa, Legazpi, Tagbilaran, and Kalibo with Airphil Express 1Y588 seat sale for all Manila fresh flights on April 26 only. The limited one-way seat promo is good for travel from June 1 to 30. Direct flights from Cebu to Davao are also up for grabs for only P888. The one-way fare is fastest growing budget airline flies to Puerto Princesa and Tagbilaran since daily, and to Legazpi and Kalibo since daily. Airphil Express is one of the country's newest and most economical promos to have thus 18 domestic destinations onboard its improved A320 aircrafts. Airphil Express is also keen on giving the best value for money with its inclusive perks such as online check-in, travel insurance, seat selection and pre-paid baggage. It is also the first new airline company that offers unlimited 15 kilo free baggage allowance and an additional 7 kilo meal pack. For more details, visit www.airphilexpress.com.

BITS Clips

Brisk sales of luxury homes indicate better times ahead

THE RESt of the Asia Pacific region as the new seat of financial wealth and business expansion is illustrated in the sales performance of Raffles Residences Makati, a 239-unit residential project at the corner of Makati and Ayala avenues in the country's main financial district.

Positioned at the top of the Manila luxury market pyramid, the residential condominium project is now over 70 percent sold out. The development shares amenities with the 358-room Fairmont hotel, which will occupy the first eight floors of the building, and the 38-suite Raffles hotel on the ninth and 10th floors. Raffles Residences will complete the 50-story building beginning on the 11th floor.

The project, which has been quickly acquired by affluent buyers living locally and abroad, is being sold in phases. On its first day of sale, the entire allocation of Raffles Residences Global's Phase 1 inventory was bought.

"The first branded residences offering in Manila, coupled with the world-renowned brand value, stood the value of a luxury product anchored on the strength of an international hotel brand," explains Brad Berry, vice president of Real Estate of Kingdom Hotels Investments, developers of Raffles Hotel and Residences, Makati.

Despite the worldwide recession in 2009, the second phase sold as planned. With business confidence on the rise, the third phase moved briskly in 2010. Buyers consisted mostly of end users keen on being the exquisite lifestyle that Raffles offers, Berry observes.

The final phase is set to be offered soon. With construction having already reached the 26th floor, the project will continue to attract affluent purchasers who can now see tangible evidence of the project's unique value.

Raffles Residences Manila, which is a joint venture between Kingdom Hotels Inc. and Ayala Land Inc., is sold on the strength of its iconic Raffles brand, quality of construction, access to unparalleled locations worldwide, according to Berry.

"In Singapore, Beijing, Paris and elsewhere in the world, the brand stands for luxury elegance and residential charm. Raffles has been named among the world's top 10 hotel brands," he notes. "Each Raffles hotel has become a landmark in its respective city. Unsurprisingly, our Manila buyers know of or have experienced the Raffles lifestyle."

Cabiao, Candaba set to grow . . .

From page B1

and the hybrid technology for it is in place.

Among the five varieties being tested locally is SPV620 skewed good results, Reddy said.

"The production of sweet sorghum's stems both food and energy security and clean environment," Reddy said. "This is a win-win situation for farmers and industry."

Candaba has set aside two rooms at the Mina Earth Park's training center for an enterprise campus of the Bengzaga Agricultural College, through which farmers will assist local farmers.

Also last week, Avirtas met with officials of the First Philippine Sweet Sorghum Corp. (FPSSC), a consortium of companies, Hercules Energy, Hyundai Enterprises and Gil Advantage.

Peridas Energy, chaired by Patrick Ohlsen, the mayor's son, has been growing sweet sorghum in the last three years in parts of Central Luzon.

With low crop production, Peridas churns out 700 liters of ethanol daily through a dis-

Tour de Force

From page B1

Cebu Trip them A-Car with three units, two vans and a sedan.

The second among three siblings, Jun says he was inspired by his father, a long-time employee of the Land Transportation Office.

He wanted to measure up to his father, in terms of hard work and perseverance, so-managing Jun to grow his business further.

Soon, the business did grow by leaps and bounds. Recently, as his units traversed roads and brought people to visit to places.

By this time, it was ripe for Jun to venture into the world of travel and tour (now sponsor tours he already had established some existence with various clients.

Cebu Trip Tours was set up in June 2010 with the help of his wife, Maria Rachbeth.

Today, the couple is busy creating tour packages for people to enjoy.

"To travel means more than simply going from point A to point B," Jun explains. "To travel means to visit a destination and truly experience it."

Jun and Rachbeth's new baby is called a tour in coach tour, which is super to join a six-hour tour of the city at anytime of the week. The tour was launched last August 2010.

An average of 30 people—a combination of Arabbayans, foreign and local tourists—join the tour every day.

It starts by 9:00 a.m. and by P1,250 to enjoy the tour, complete with a lunch buffet, tour guide and entrance fees to various scenic and historic sites.

The itinerary includes Fort San Pedro, Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño, Magellan's Cross, Taoist Temple, and others.

The company also offers all-island hopping adventure, golf tours, yacht city private tours and hotel-day outings.

On car rental business has 21 drivers, while his tour company has four full-time employees.

Jun says it is hard to start a business, but to sustain it is even more challenging.

"There was a point in my life when I declared that I wanted to be an entrepreneur. I am glad I followed it," he says.

Within the pipeline is another tourism-related venture called the Cebu Travel Guide, a small booklet that showcases Cebu's best and "well-preserved secret tourist spots."

About 5,000 free copies will be printed and distributed for free next month, he says.

The abundant harvest Jun reaped from being an entrepreneur far outweighed the challenges he encountered, he says.

"I have my time: time to spare, love is also instilled in me the value of discipline. Being an entrepreneur has brought out my creativity."

Australian Government | Australia Awards

Australian Government Scholarships for 2012

The Australian Government is now accepting applications for the **2012 Australia Awards** scholarships in Masters, PhD and technical-vocational studies. The Australia Awards aim to promote knowledge exchanges, education links and enduring ties between Australia and its neighbours through Australia's extensive scholarship programs.

The Australia Awards scholarships include two streams: Development Awards and Endeavour Awards.

Development Awards include the Australian Development Scholarships and the Australian Leadership Awards administered by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). These scholarships aim to develop capacity and leadership skills so that individuals can contribute to development in the Philippines.

Endeavour Awards are Australia's internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program, providing opportunities for Filipinos to undertake post-graduate study and research and professional development activities in any academic field in Australia.

DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

- Priority areas: Basic Education; Good Governance/Reforms; Peace and Development; Public Financial Management; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Climate Change Adaptation; Organizational Development/Human Resource Management and Development; Trade/Foreign Relations; Pandemics (Preparedness and Management)
- Applications can be submitted online via www.australiaawards.gov, details on the application process and requirements are also available on the website
- Development Awards are open to Filipinos from government and non-government sectors.
- Successful candidates will be awarded an Australian Development Scholarship. Exceptional nominees are eligible to vie for the globally competitive Australian Leadership Awards
- Deadline of application is 31 May 2011.
- Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interview in June 2011.
- Applicants will be advised of the outcome in October 2011.

ENDEAVOUR AWARDS

- Priority Area: any academic field of study in Australia
- Applications must be submitted using the Endeavour Online Application system at www.dfat.gov.au/hrd/endeavour/Endeavour/Awards
- Open to citizens of the Asia-Pacific, including the Philippines, to undertake post-graduate study, research, and professional development activities
- Deadline of application is 30 June 2011.
- Applicants will be advised of the outcome in November 2011.

All Australian Government scholars are required to return to the Philippines for at least two years after completion of studies.

Visit the following sites for further information:

- www.australiaawards.gov.au for general information on Australia Awards
- www.philippines.embassy.gov.au for IELTS exams
- www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/centers/testing_dates/ for TOEFL exams

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CHEVROLET

Globe continues to partner with DOLE to help Pinoys find local and overseas jobs

Globe Telecom partners with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as it aims to look out for the welfare of workers both here and abroad by providing relevant offers and services.

As the country marks Labor Day on May 1, Globe once again joins forces with DOLE to bringing employment opportunities to thousands of Filipinos with a Job and Livelihood Fair at the Luneta Park and other DOLE-identified venues nationwide.

Thousands of local and international job vacancies are up for grabs for applicants—from entry-level positions for fresh graduates to opportunities for skilled workers and displaced repatriated workers from the Middle East and North Africa. Over 150 local employers and 50 private agencies will be on the look-out for fresh hires during the job fair.

In addition, returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who would like to stay put in the country and venture into business can avail of free livelihood counseling from DOLE, in cooperation with the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). For the past three years, the Labor Department has been introducing innovations to help make things easier for Filipino workers. For instance, DOLE partnered with Globe for its 2917 Hotline, a free call service where callers can get information on available jobs and livelihood programs as well as help on work-related concerns using any Globe or TM SIM.

DOLE Iloaning Officer Frederick Wakay with Jaime Golpe Jr., a beneficiary of the DOLE Single Entry Approach (SEAt)

More recently, DOLE introduced the Single Entry Approach (SEAt), a key reform measure in labor adjudication and arbitration, which mandates DOLE offices to resolve through conciliation-mediation all cases filed by any worker or employer within 30 days. Through SEAt, Filipino workers like Jaime Golpe Jr., a bench worker at a local tin can manufacturing company in Malabon who was illegally dismissed from his job, was able to get swift results on his complaints. Only 19 days after Golpe filed his complaint with SEAt, he and his former employer agreed on a settlement term that awarded him over P60,000 in financial assistance and arrears that he received right there and then. The SEAt mechanism has resulted in faster settlement of workers' complaints and disputes with management.

On the other hand, to help Filipino workers abroad and their families stay in touch, Globe has affordable IDD products and services that have the widest reach worldwide: the OFW Family Pack consisting of two SIMS—the Family SIM that enables OFW families to send P1 text message and make discounted IDD calls to OFWs abroad and the OFW SIM which has pre-activated roaming service that allows user maintaining balance while roaming; Globe IDD Saver Calls allows users to make IDD calls to Australia, Canada, China, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA, and Equatorial Guinea for only P9.15 per IDD second; and Globe ITXT 50, which allow users to send 100 international texts for 30 days to 190 destinations worldwide for only P50.

Both Globe and DOLE aspire to transform and enrich the lives of Filipino workers through communications that will help bring them closer to their aspirations and what matters most to them. For more information on the Globe and TM text and call promos, call the Globe 24-hour Call-to-Service at 730-1000 from a landline, or via your cell for mobility at 211 for Globe and 808 for TM. You may also log on at www.globe.com.ph.

IN THIS ISSUE
From Florence's Renaissance glories to the heart of our nation /G3

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Easter —a time to regain our sense of perspective

How many times have we dedicated ourselves to something or someone and feel disappointment? Some stop and never recover... The recognition of the Risen Lord asks us to begin to see our story with new eyes

By Fr. Tito Caluag
Guest Essayist

A FEW WEEKS before my ordination in 1993, a simple incident forever marked my life as a Christian and my ministry as a priest.

Since I was still a deacon, my assignment for a friend, who was terminally ill and whose family was praying for a miracle, was to get pictures to my Mass. One time I was able to invite an American Jesuit who was here in the Philippines for his ministerships (the final year of formation for priests before final vows are given). He was an accomplished theologian and a very good, pastoral priest.

After the Mass and over dinner, he was asked what he thought about a supposed visionary who was from the outset of so much contention. I forgot on "years" him that the said visionary was one of the family's hopes for a miracle. His initial response made me want to hide under the table.

"I think it's time we [every day the visionary is getting to look more and more like the Blessed Mother]."

There was complete silence. He continued, "We need to remember that the miracles of the Lord did not prove his divinity. They showed his compassion and power, yes, but there is only one event that proved he was God—the Cross and the Resurrection. Everything else God wants us to say he said in the Cross and the Resurrection."

Definitive synthesis

The Cross and the Resurrection, the Paschal Mystery—is this event, is this mystery is everything that God wanted to say. I believe this is what we can consider as the definitive synthesis of all things in our life, The Paschal Mystery.

If we look all around us, the pattern of the Paschal Mystery has been with us even before Jesus, across cultures and through generations. The Greeks talked about cycles, anti-thesis, synthesis. The cycle of life talks about coming to life, maturing, dying and new life again. The four seasons show us the same cycle, spring, summer, fall, winter and back to the start of the cycle.

With the Paschal Mystery the pattern of the Cross and the Resurrection, this cycle is raised to a possibility that was never imagined before. We will get to a definitive

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You wouldn't want to go home empty-handed. Take with you souvenir photos of your exciting day at the 2011 Big Worlds of SM MOA's Big Easter Planet.

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MAROON 5
LIVE IN MANILA 2011
MAY 23, 2011 | 8PM

New 'altar for Soledad' in Cavite; Manila Cathedral as basilica turns 30

EMPEY DATTO

Last April 12 was the 310th anniversary of the enthronement of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Porta Vaga. The original date was April 12, 1692 when she was enthroned in her ermita (chapel) in Cavite Viejo. It is now called the Diocesan Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with Fr Virgilio Sacro Mendoza as parish priest and server.

The "Soledad" is the patroness of the province of Cavite.

Imus Bishop Chito Tagle was chief celebrant in the 5 p.m. mass. He also led the blessing of a new altar of the Soledad in the 376 year-old church. Also blessed were the Stella Regularis Day (the Dimasalang family) lying in here.

Made by local artisans, the design of the altar was patterned after the two altars for the Tabernacle and the Ark. Made on the right side door by artists Magbalon.

The Cofradía de Nuestra Señora de Soledad de Porta Vaga led by Ilyan Enriquez could only weep for joy during mass when some beside me mean the same thing was overwhelmed. Photographer Jayson Guampo Sunoa kept taking photos to last a lifetime. I am glad my friend, Debbie Campos, drove me to Mass. He spent an hour with the Soledad after the Mass talking to her.

Basilica anniversary

Cardinal Rosales leads 80 bishops, lay and clergy to the beatification of Pope John Paul II, who raised the Manila Cathedral to the dignity of a Minor Basilica on April 27, 1981. The Pope had made historic his intention to elevate the cathedral to Manila Archbishop Jaime L. Cardinal Sin during his visit in February 1981 when he beatified the first Filipina Saint, Lorenzo Ruiz.

Manila Cathedral is the only Church declared metropolitan (on his own initiative) by the Pope based on the following considerations: its rich and colorful history spanning over 400 years, its patriotic spirit and resilient architecture, and its role in the lives of the faithful as a venue for various religious, liturgical, and cultural activities in the country.

On April 27, at 5:30 p.m., Cardinal Rosales will preside at the unveiling and blessing of the markers. He will preside at the Eucharistic celebration.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcong

The Manila Metropolitan Cathedral Basilica Foundation, Inc. is trying to upgrade the Basilica infrastructure for tourists and pilgrims.

Feast of Mercy in Misamis Oriental

There is still time to book a flight to Cagayan de Oro for the Divine Mercy Hills in El Salvador town in Misamis Oriental. The nine-day novena of Masses ends on April 30 at the Kidapawan chapel. Rose of novena was Good Friday.

Schedule of Divine Masses on May 1: 4:30 a.m. High Mass (Field Altar); 8 a.m. (Kidapawan Chapel); 10 a.m. (Kidapawan); 1 p.m. (Midsayap); 3 p.m. (Aleosan); and 5:30 p.m. (Field Altar 1). Text Bonbie at 0917-6650495.

Miraculous Medal miracle

Danilo M. Maceda, former president of the Manila Diamond Council of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, thanks her for saving his life.

Maceda had fallen from the tree in front of his house on Dec. 11, 2010 at noon while installing capiz lamps up a yucca tree for Christmas.

"The ground floor of our house where the tree was located was about five meters higher than the street," he said. "I was about to get down from the tree to have lunch when I saw an exposed electrical wire connection. I was sitting on a big branch that was more than four meters high from the ground.

"As I was extending the exposed electrical wire, the branch where I was seated gave in and I skidded. There I fell from a height of about nine meters, equivalent to the fourth floor of a building. I was wide awake and conscious when I fell and heard a voice telling me to hold on tight and not let go.

"There I knew Manila Mary enfolded me and guided my fall, so that I landed on a plant box beside the street that was surrounded by hard concrete rocks.

No surgery needed

"At the Asian Hospital where I was brought, medical personnel at the ER attended to me with dispatch.

"In a few minutes, various doctors came in my presence and the ER turned into ICU. A miracle of miracles, despite the injury I sustained, no surgery was necessary though I stayed at the ICU for six days. After which, we transferred to Las Piñas Doctors Hospital and spent 18 more days at the ICU.

"I had broken ribs, my spinal cord, what they call, T5, T10 and T12 were seriously compressed, my right and left lungs were damaged and ailing, were immersed in serious fluids.

"As I spent those grueling days in the hospital, I felt God's loving presence in me. The miraculous medal never left my side, pinned on my hospital gown, if not on my pillow. Most important, I had Mistica Mary's wraps to my heart. My faith never wavered. I knew that I will pass the crisis. Mama Mary, the patroness, the loving care of my family, doctors and friends accompanied me in that journey. The beautiful statue of Our Lady kept watch at me with her mantle as a protective cover, giving me the grace and the will to live. Without them, I wouldn't and have overcome the crisis.

"After 24 days in ICU, 14 days in hospital room and now month of recovery at home, I am back to work as a psychologist and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion."

ALTAR of Nuestra Señora Soledad de Porta Vaga in the Diocesan Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Naic, Cavite.

After her miracle, she mentioned to Fr Pilar Doctors Hospital and spent 18 more days at the ICU.

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"After 24 days in ICU, 14 days in hospital room and now month of recovery at home, I am back to work as a psychologist and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion."

Easter—a time to regain our sense of perspective

Turn to page A3

tree, irreversible methods come to attain the Resurrection.

A few days ago, after Mass, someone from the congregation asked me if Easter is the biggest feast of the church. This started a conversation about how Easter is a big thing in other countries.

Jokingly I said, yes, Easter should be a big thing, but after all the activities from Holy Thursday to those processions in Balintawak on Easter Sunday, we are too tired to celebrate Easter. (I remembered our mountain days when we worked for two years in Sagada Pulay, where after the Salubong we would all drop dead and sleep.)

Being Easter, we can spend time to celebrate this numerous point. We can consider it as regaining our sense of perspective.

Story of two disciples

One of the Gospels that can be used for the Easter Sunday Mass for the afternoon or evening is the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke (24:13-33). Their story is our story.

Pained in the telling of a journey, these two were trying home to Emmaus after the seeming defeat of the Cross in Jerusalem. In the midst of the defeat and near despair, the Risen Lord joins them on the journey, but they do not recognize him. Then the Risen Lord recalls the story about him "beginning with Moses." He makes them remember.

They arrive in Emmaus, still not recognizing who it was that journeyed with them, and they invite him in. They only recognize him at the breaking of bread when "their eyes were opened and they recognized him..."

The Risen Lord vanishes and after the encounter, they tell each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us?" Then they return to Jerusalem to proclaim that the Lord is Risen!

This is our story. This is our journey. How many times have we dedicated ourselves to something or someone and got to a point of a seeming setback, a disappointment, and feel, to the words of the two disciples, "but we were hoping." Some stop at this point and never recover, others reinvigorate to regain perspective.

The recognition of the Risen Lord asks us to remember and to begin to see with new eyes our story. It requires a paradigm shift for us to recognize.

It is regaining perspective in our life to see how again we are to live it out with meaning, with a sense of mission.

This is the Easter journey. In the story of the Risen Lord during the Easter Vigil, the first words of the Risen Lord to the two Marys were, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee and there they will see me."

It goes to the movement and the encounter to remember our story. It tells us to go back to where we all started our journey; the original inspiration that made us pursue the life we are living. We all had that moment when, with great clarity, we knew our life had meaning and we can live it out with a sense of fullness.

What's the point?

Over 20 years ago, one of my friends came to me two weeks before Christmas. He had just discovered that the company he was working with was involved in under-the-table deals. He was struggling with it. It was a high-paying job and was providing well for his young family. His wife was to give birth to their second child in less than a month.

He could not afford to be jobless, and yet he felt it was a job he could not be proud of. Worse, it was a job he could not tell his children about.

I remember his words: "Christ, what's the point? What is all about, I am working for my family; to be a good father and a good husband. If I cannot even tell my kids what their dad is doing, what's the point?"

He did not resolve the conflict that night.

A few days later, he came back to me and invited me for a drink to celebrate. He had resigned! He wanted to celebrate. He chose either it was all right or it was not. He had the original inspiration that set him off on his journey to the first place.

This is the Paschal Mystery in our life: The cycle of disintegrating and reintegrating; the cycle of crisis, unto change and synthesis; life and death; the Cross and the Resurrection. It is the final word of God, the definitive synthesis.

Easter completes the story. The Risen Lord makes us remember our story and, in remembering, we see that everything ends in new life, in the fullness of grace. We celebrate life and grace! The Lord is Risen! Then we reaffirm our faith that our life has meaning and we have a mission. We are whole.

We believe we are whole and, in living this mission, not only do we make our life meaningful, but we also make the world a little bit better.

In the words of scripture, "Behold I make all things new... the new heavens and the new earth"—the alpha and the omega.

"He shall not come from exploration."

And the end of all our exploring

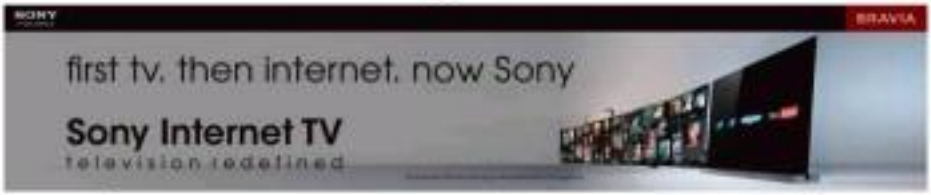
Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time.

"Four Quartets - Little Gidding" by TS Eliot

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Father Suarez on the tennis court—and in the vineyard of the Lord /G1

Sunday LIFESTYLE



How I survived the Marathon de Paris

Running in Paris means running past monument after monument . . . Seeing the finish line near the Arc de Triomphe was heaven!

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdez

HAPPY EASTER!

Holy, holy, holy—Indian now, begin things that bring families hope and a promise of endless possibilities. Anything is indeed possible if you just your mind to it.

Eight months ago, my running cronies **Lil Dorotheo** talked about joining the 35th Marathon de Paris. Having already completed the New York Marathon, I thought it would be a grand experience, after all, if you say "New York, Paris," then who knows what comes next?

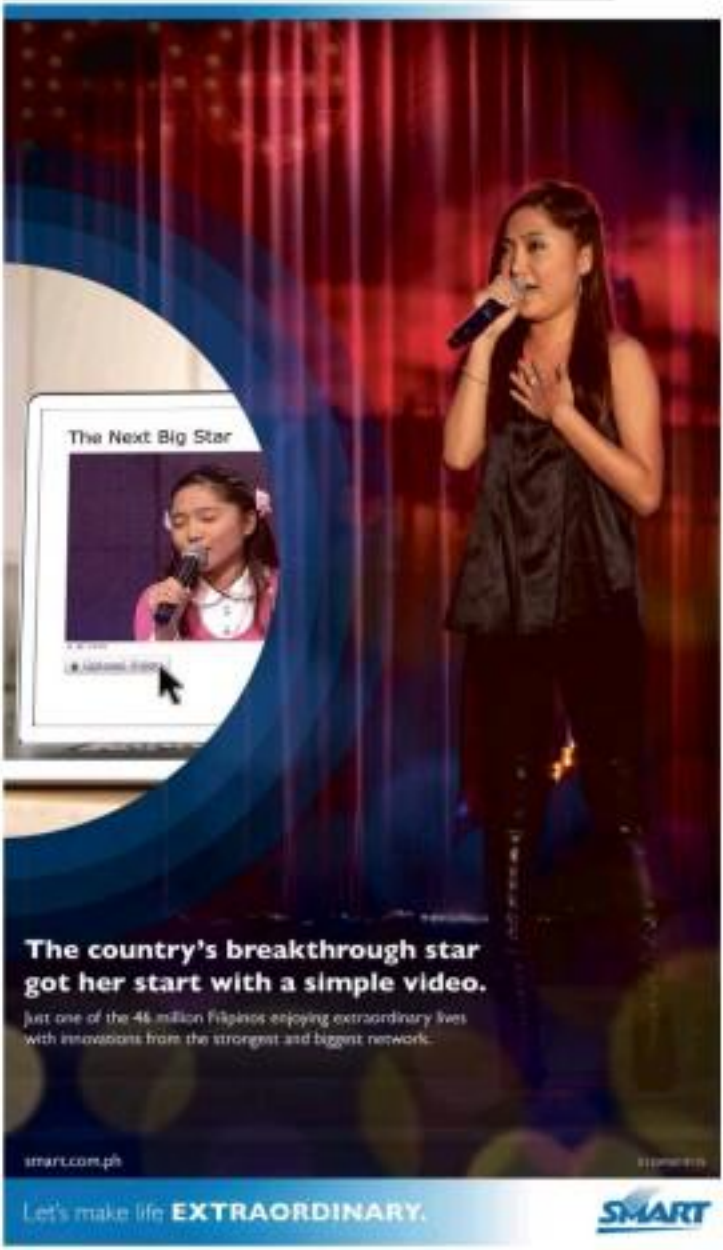
With enough time to train for the grueling 42 km run, I was looking forward to run the tree-lined, grand boulevards and the narrow, cobblestone streets of the City of Lights. So, I quickly completed the online registration for the marathon. There would be no turning back.

Our weekly training used the Jeff Galloway Run/Walk method. And it proved to be very effective, especially given my delicate and infrequent running training. My late nights and social events made it hard to adhere to an early morning running schedule.

Lil brought Jeff Galloway to Manila, and it was wonderful to have met the running guru, so he was the perfect foil to motivate me for the running. I also found out the running program could be adjusted to reach the desired time goal. My one goal was to have improve on my 5:22 New York time. Part of the preparation included getting special running gear, breaking in my new multicolored New Balance running shoes, running on Timex watch, and organizing my post race events.

Our running group would be composed of Lil, Rogers executive **Bonna Cruz**, IT maestro **Louie Cortiguel** and **Lizanne Fuentebella-Carreon**, editor **Lulu Pacpaco** and friend **Bonna**. Our support group included Lizzie's hubby, **Claudio**, and his sister Marlena **Chua**, fine restaurateur **Myla**

HOW I SURVIVED O



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MARK marathon runners Andrew, Vanessa and Jean-Jean Ong, Lara Parpan, Leah Cartagal and Ian Princess

SUNSET SUPPORT GROUP: Lance Carreon, Rinbo Chan, Charlie Carreon, Lorlaine Carvalho, Jojo Kasang, Alana Carvalho and EP Carvalho

MTH the French Reunion, taken using the Philips HDR

How I survived the Marathon ..

SWATCH co-ear Virgie Ramsay (L) and co-owner Marian Goldwell, and Team Volvo and daughter Athena

VICTORY celebration after the New marathon

SWATCH Zebra Day at Bonifacio. Globe's Greg Banquilletcille Athena and Tessa Valdes

SWATCH beauty Anne Curtis and Jennifer Valdes

PHOTO start at the Paris marathon. Ian Princess, Lance Carreon and Glo-ira Lim

RUNNING is my pick-me-in Paris

LIST starting clockwise, Lance Carreon and Ian Princess

PHOTO marathon finishers with our models ...marathi mark Lil Dwaba

BEST FRIENDS IN RUNS. Pa Gardens and Pearl Jacob in Vegetarian Restaurant

TEAM Philippines at the Park Expo. Lianne Carmona, Lara Pangan, Leah Cariaga, Rissa Cruz, Arriel Sienes, Liz Clemeña and Sian Peñaso

NEW BALANCE hosts at the Park: Running Expo with Rissa Cruz and running coach Liz Clemeña

TIMEX Cruz and Sian Peñaso at the Time booth at the Park Expo

A piano concert by the sea

CZAU CZAU
Inquirer
reinvent

Acclaimed pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria is recorded in performance in an island villa

INGRID SALA Santamaria, one of the country's most highly acclaimed pianists, performed at an afternoon recitalist with String Ensemble from the Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines. It was hosted by Florentino Atillo III and his lovely wife, Irma Lim Atillo, at their palatial home by the sea, villa Sta Fermin, Montan Island.

The purpose, aside from listening to beautiful music, was to make a formal recording of "Ingrid Live in Atillo." The result will be an international release of a DVD as well as a compact disc, digitally mastered to perfection.

Strategic position

There to supervise the documentation of this memorable performance were sound experts Jaye Mueller and Greg Ravin, who has an Oscar to his credit for "The Hunt of Red October." Their team and crew took strategic positions to accomplish their task.

"It is not just me being filmed and recorded," Ingrid said as she glided almost gracefully to the piano. "But rather, the musical genre of a concert soloist with an orchestral accompaniment provided by a string quartet."

It may as well be a unique one in the world of music, and, one can say, with results that are highly satisfactory.

We met Atillo in professor Jo-Ivey Ridaura, who has made the arrangements for various concert Ingrid plays on frequent occasions.

Ingrid wistfully recalled her dance with Jeffrey manifest-violinist, then musical director of Peace Philharmonic, the musical development project of Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation. Now he is conductor with Manila Symphony Orchestra.

The afternoon's program started when Mr. Atillo originated Café Lagunawaters entire with their trays of sandwiches and drinks. Then, it was Irma Atillo who was in the spotlight as she gave a welcome speech. She said: "This is indeed an honor and a privilege to have Ingrid Sala Santamaria performing in our home." It so happened that the Atillo abode is equipped with a grand piano on which Irma plays, in order.

Now in the spotlight was Ingrid herself, shimmery in a royal blue dress with sparkle on the beautifully sleeves, and a magnificent amethyst glowing from a fitting gem pendant. The instrument, the quarter Mark Hamby Mercado and 2nd violin Babi, violins 1 and 2); Ivy Abellana, viola; and Christopher Ridaura, bass.

The said duet was an printed program, but that it would be easy to remember her repertoire. First was Nocturne No. 1 by Chopin. Next was Concerto No. 5 by Beethoven-II. This is the one whose third movement is known to many as the song "Full Moon and Empty Arms."

Some may wince at that strange term, but Ingrid doesn't mind. She may even learn it, and supply the rest, chosing lyrics "Half seas full moon, if all my dreams come true, my empty arms will be filled with you." Who else?

Mix on scene

As Ingrid sizzled away, daintily, forcefully, romantically, as the occurrence dictated, we took in the scenery around us, as the French would say. The stately home's ceiling could well have been 20 feet above the floor. A massive chandelier lit up the place with crystal lilies and golden leaves. Curios set on pedestals and glass cases, impressions on the walls. The view yielded already up and down the sweeping staircase to land.

When the performance ended, everyone rose up as one to give Ingrid a standing ovation. For an encore, she played the first movement from the Chopin concerto, which in many accounts, even better than the first time.

Dinner at the garden terrace followed, giving all an opportunity to congratulate Ingrid Sanders, mingle and exchange pleasantries. The Sunday afternoon had turned into a breezy evening.

Ingrid sat with daughter Cecille E. Bolda and her children, Javier, Antonio and Ramon. Other family members present were brother Jose Sala, Honorary Consul of Sweden, and his wife Susan M. Sala; and sisters Soledad Sala and Nena Garcia.

From the Atillo family were Ricky and Irma's son Nino Atillo, and Ricky's sister Salerio with husband Bob Zamudio. "They are on their honeymoon," said Ricky, "and they look so happy."

Lilian City Councilor Margot Cimatu, from the city's Cultural and Historical Affairs Commission and Tourism Commission, was present with Jose Orlando D. de Jesus and Nonie Uy.

Also present were Elaine Perena with daughter Maria, Elena Lo Yu, Teresita Mendonca, Annie Cheneka Simbla, Carmen Campbell, Josephine Abalos Rosell and Divina Pagan.

SUPERMALLS

HAPPINESS MEANS HOPPING AROUND FOR LOTS OF EASTER FUN

Rise and shine for the most exciting Easter festivities at SM Supermalls

A heavenly experience awaits you this Easter at SM Supermalls. This special day becomes all the more meaningful as we fill it with a series of events that celebrates life. It kicks off with a mall-wide Easter egg hunt that is open to kids aged 4 to 12 years old. Kids may collect up to 50 eggs in this one-of-a-kind hunt.

Easter Egg Hunt Mall Challenge

Kids are invited to participate in different mall games.

Count the eggs in the jar

In this fun activity, kids may count eggs before they're hatched. They will be given maps, which will lead them to five different kiosks with jars filled with eggs. Then they may take a look at guessing how many eggs there are in the jar. Whoever who makes a guess that's closest to the actual number of eggs wins.

Spot the eggs

This kids' counting skills and powers of observation are tested in this board-surveying game. Kids will be handed maps that will direct them to five people with eggs on their window display. They will then have to count the eggs (embedded with candies). If their count comes close to the actual number of eggs on display, they win.

Easter egg letter and golden egg hunt

Easter just got even more delightful with this fun hunt. Easter eggs with different letters printed on them will be hidden underneath chairs. Participants must hunt for those eggs. Anyone who finds the most number of eggs wins.

Scramble eggs

This wonderful word game is open to kids and their parents or guardians. Eggs collected with letters on them may be used to form words. The participants who are able to form the most number of words win the game.

April 24
SM City Bacoor, SM City Bicutan
SM City Bulacan, SM City Fairview
SM City Clark
SM City Dasmariñas
SM City Cebu
SM City Iloilo
SM City Manila
SM City San Pedro
SM City Sucat

Easter Bunny Costume Contest

What's an Easter celebration without bunnies? This year, we're inviting kids aged 6 to 12 years old to suit up in their most creative, eye-catching and unique Easter bunny costumes. To some can they compete as we're giving away P1,000.00 worth of Toy Kingdom Certificates each to the cutest, most colorful and sweetest bunny costume. Hop off to these participating malls:

(complete list of participating malls will be listed here for easy reference)

April 24
SM Center La Mesa, SM Center Muntinlupa
SM Center Pasig, SM Center Valenzuela, SM City Baguio
SM City Bacoor, SM City Bicutan, SM City Bulacan
SM City Butuan, SM City Cagayan de Oro, SM City Cebu
SM City Clark, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Davao, SM City Fairview
SM City Iloilo, SM City Lipa, SM City Lucena, SM City Manila
SM City Marikina, SM City Molino, SM City Naga, SM City Novaliches
SM City Pampanga, SM City Rosales, SM City Roxas, SM City San Lazaro
SM City San Pedro, SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City Sta. Rosa, SM City Sucat
SM City Tarlac, SM City Trece, SM Southmall

Easter Egg Tree

Have you seen eggs that grow on trees? Well, SM Supermalls do. See this marvelous sight, and the best part? Kids get to "harvest" an egg each for a surprise treat by simply presenting P100.00 worth of receipts from mall tenants.

April 24
SM City Bacoor
SM City Batangas
SM City Dasmariñas

Egg Painting

Kids may show off their artistic side by painting their eggs with colorful designs. Then may start working on their masterpieces in these malls:

April 24
SM Center Valenzuela
SM City Batangas
SM City Cagayan de Oro
SM City Iloilo
SM City Pampanga
SM City Tarlac

Giant Easter Egg Photo-op Area

Get ready to have the camera and say cheese at the Easter photo-op area. We are inviting six giant Easter eggs (at least 6-feet in height). Do anyone who would like to remember dear this day with a cute, cool Easter photo of the family. Prepare for an Easter to remember at these SM Supermalls:

April 24
SM City Bacoor, SM City Batangas
SM City Bicutan, SM City Iloilo
SM City Marikina, SM City San Jose, SM City Tarlac

Cybercore E-Bunnies Hunt

Cybercore's just an Easter treat for its customers. Simply go to your favorite Cybercore and participate in our Easter Bunny Hunt. Visit www.cybercore.com.ph for more details.

April 24
SM City Bacoor, SM City Bicutan, SM City Cagayan de Oro
SM City Calamba, SM City Cebu, SM City Clark, SM City Davao
SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM City Marikina, SM City Naga
SM City North Edsa, SM City Pampanga, SM City Tarlac, SM Megamall
SM Southmall

SM Foodcourt Easter Promo

For a P100 minimum food purchase inclusive of two Coca-cola or Minute Maid drinks, enjoy two to three arcade games or rides at participating arcade sponsors.

(list updated from time to time, for more list of SM Supermalls, click here)

April 24 to 30
All SM foodcourt branches

Easter is a great time to celebrate life and be thankful for it. What better way to spend the special day than with friends and family? Experience it in the most wonderful way possible by taking part in the Easter activities at SM Supermalls.

For inquiries: call (02) 470-2222*; text 0906-4685473* or visit www.smsupermalls.com

*Standard rates applicable with SM's service providers.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ 10 great Philippine summits to climb /F1

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

THE TEMPLE of Heavenly Abode emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties would make offerings to heaven and pray for good harvests.

Breathless in Beijing

From the Forbidden City to the Great Wall, from spa pampering to eating Peking duck–the possibilities are endless

By Bella Bautista Roberts

BEIJING'S WEATHER bureau was correct and restrictive: There will be scattered rain showers, and temperature will be about three to 11 degrees for the coming days.

"Get ready with your coats, scarves, because it's freezing out there." This was the warning from our tour guide Kate. He was right; it was really "Hello Winter" in Beijing.

The plane ride to China's capital city in the north was about four and a half hours for us Manila. It is one of the international destinations that has been made more accessible by Cebu Pacific airlines, with its inclusion in its fares.

Many of Beijing's attractions have been restored or preserved: the great temples of stone, historic landmarks, classy gardens, and traditional food and delicacies. Its art treasures have long made the city a center of culture and art in China.

With China's rich heritage, it's no wonder the land of the Great Wall has become a most popular tourist destination than the Alps of Switzerland.

According to online experts, the 10 World Tourism Organization has ranked China as the world's third most popular tourist destination, overtaking Spain.

We were quite surprised to see, on a chilly day, tourists flocking to the temples, palaces and gardens of the great ancient city. Many tourist spots were packed.

And there's more to Beijing than the Great Wall. For Filipinos in search of seasons of getaways, here's a short list of major tourist spots that make travelers to Beijing now want to explore.

Tiananmen Square

Tiananmen Square, named after the Tiananmen Gate, is at the heart of Beijing. It is considered the largest city square in the world.

It has been the site of a number of political events and student protests, as well as several important events in the history of China.

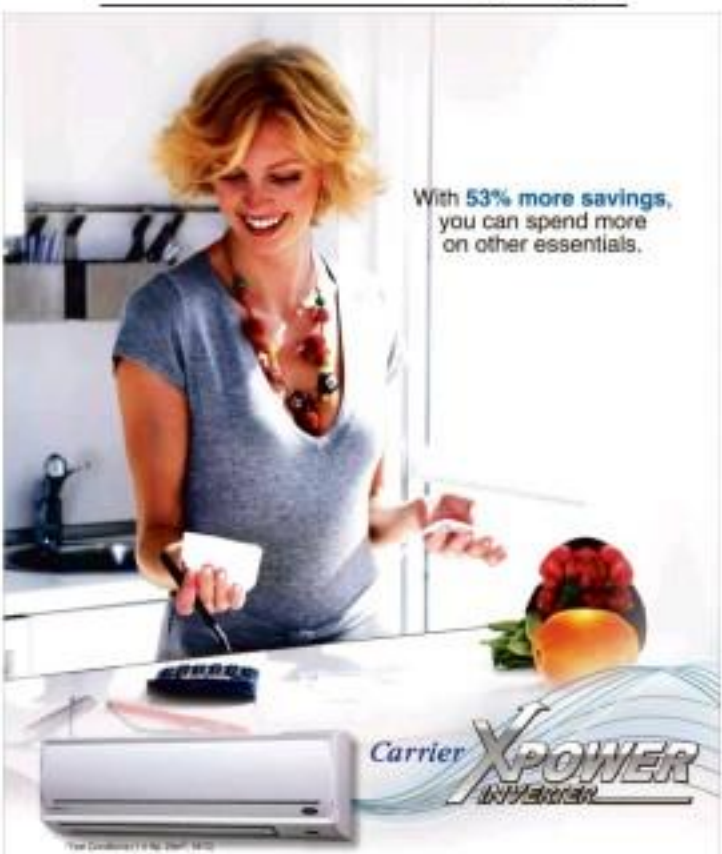
The seemingly bottomless square has red flags all over the place and is surrounded by guards in uniform who never smile, and persistently reject photo opportunities with tourists like us.

Situated on the west of Tiananmen Square is the Great Hall of the People, an important venue for state affairs and diplomatic activities.

The Forbidden City

The Palace, formerly known as Chinese Imperial Palace, is now the Palace Museum. It was home to emperors—their households as well as their consultants—for almost 500 years. There are more than 800 buildings with 9,000 rooms inside.

MORE PAGES F2



Breathless in Beijing

CRISPY Peking duck

THE GREAT WALL of China

BIRDS the National Stadium, designed by Herzog & De Meuron with Arup and China Architecture Design and Research Group

Here, it's fun to wear jogging shoes for long walks through all those gates and halls, though only a portion of the complex has been opened to the public.

The Forbidden City was declared a World Heritage Site in 1987, and was noted by Unesco as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world.

Bird's Nest

Two of the most recognizable structures of the Olympic Games are the National Stadium, also known as Bird's Nest, and National Aquatics Center, or Water Cube.

It was a dream come true to step into the famous Beijing National Stadium, where the 2008 Beijing Olympics was held. The Bird's Nest has twig-like structural elements, and the bowl-shaped roof is truly a work of art.

Adjacent to the stadium is the Water Cube. People may wonder what's use to redo the big, eye-catching Olympic structure. Right after the Olympics, it was converted into a multifunctional facility for water sports, culture, and recreation.

And last November, the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) announced that the 2013 World Championships in Athletics will take place at Beijing National Stadium.

Great Wall

The highlights of any trip to China has to be a tour of the Great Wall, one of the world's greatest wonders. It is located 10,000 km across mountains. The total zig-zag adds a picturesque view of the scenic landscape.

According to history, the Great Wall we see today was mostly built during the Ming Period's, which lasted between 1368 and 1644. With a history of over 2,000 years, some of the sections have been ruined and have disappeared. However, it is still one of the most fascinating sights from around the world. Listed as a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1987.

We learned from our guide that there are two ways to climb the wall—the steeper but shorter path, or the simpler but longer route. But whichever route you choose, believe me, it's harder when you're already there. Screw that if you reach the top or not—what's important is the experience of the climb.

The Summer Palace

Another stunning view is the Summer Palace, originally known as Garden of China Reposed. It is one of the most photographed and most visited attractions in the city.

The palace was constructed in 1750, covering 2.9 sq km. Three-quarters of it is water, while 70,000 sq m are gardens, palaces and structures. It was listed a World Cultural Heritage Site in 1998.

The Summer Palace had quite a variety of sightseeing adventures—gardens, gardens with flowering plants and green trees. People rides come here enjoy such family bonding activities as trekking, boating and strolling in the gardens amid a magnificent view of the lake.

Temple of Heaven

The Temple of Heaven (Altar of Heaven) is a temple of Chinese religion used for imperial ceremonies for fine crops/ens. Its buildings are situated in their own large and tranquil park in southeast Beijing. The architectural design of the temple is quite elaborate.

According to history, it is where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties would make offerings to heaven and pray for good harvests. It was declared a Human World Heritage Site in 1998.

Best buys

Shopping is a pleasure in Beijing. Prices are quite cheap; a yuan, or renminbi (RMB), the country's currency, is equivalent to P7.

If you're on a tight budget and looking for best buys, visit Jinlitun (Courtyard 19, Jinlitun Road) and Silk Market (along the west section of Changan Street).

The Jinlitun village has popular bazaars like Marquis, Tiquin and Adidas, among others, and a bargain market selling almost everything.

The Silk Market is a treasure trove for bargain hunters, with a wide range of items, from housewares to fashion accessories, fabrics, clothes and handicrafts at affordable prices. You can do the Filipino art of haggling. We were told the best time to visit the market is on weekdays, to avoid congestion.

Our tour guide also warned us that most of the sellers here were quite aggressive and persistent, so we came prepared. For you to get what you want at your desired price, learn how to bargain.

Good food

Tour tourists like this always read with good food—I'm talking about the major player in the Chinese menu, Peking duck (crisp duck skin, fat, meat, wrapped in soft pancake with hoisin, with a piece of cucumber and bun of leeks), definitely a must try when you're in China. This traditional dish is offered at Quanjude Huaweiqiao Peking Duck Restaurant, known as Beijing's most famous Peking duck restaurant.

The Restaurant (level in Beijing was our home for four days in China. The hotel offers excellent service and world-class accommodations. It has the Touch Spa, found on the 26th floor, which offers a full range of pampering in immaculately clean facilities for guests who want total relaxation, even for a short while.

Whatever your interests, there's a mission-cheaper you'll read your visit by planning another trip to Beijing.

Cebu Pacific flies from Manila to Beijing thrice weekly for the year-round low fare of P6,999. It also operates daily service to Shanghai and thrice-weekly service to Guangzhou. For bookings and inquiries, visit www.cebupacificair.com or call 7290000. Beijing is the newest international destination of Cebu Pacific. It now flies to Greater China, including Hong Kong, Macau and Taipei.

You may call your loved ones while you're abroad at affordable rates. Postpaid subscribers can now roam in more than 300 countries with over 300 roaming partners worldwide through Sun Cellular's International Roaming Service. Dial 200 on your Sun Cellular-powered mobile phone and activate roaming service before leaving the Philippines to maintain connectivity calls and text to countries like the US, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Australia, United Kingdom, Italy, Qatar and UAE.

Mandarin Oriental brings authentic Thai flavors to Manila

A TEAM of key guest chefs from the internationally rated Mandarin Oriental Thana Dheri, Chiang Mai, come to Mandarin Oriental Manila to lead over the Thai Food Festival at Prince Cafe on May 2-15. Held with the support of Thai International Airways, this is Prince Cafe's fourth Thai food festival and the third collaboration with the Thailand luxury resort hotel.

Prince Cafe plays host to guest chef Chanin Jakrawal and his team when they present the exotic flavors of classic Thai and Northern Thai cuisine that are popular in the luxury resort's Le Grand Lanna restaurant. Dishes that will be featured at lunch and dinner buffets include Po Nieng Hoe (duck and caraway red curry with basil), In Tee Gai (charcoal-grilled chicken satay with peanut sauce and cucumber relish), Sticky rice Moo (northern-style curry pork with kaffir lime leaves), among many others.

With Mother's Day celebration falling on May 8 during the food promotion, Prince Cafe offers mothers a chance to win vouchers for The Spa at Mandarin Oriental Manila and the hotel's restaurants and bars.

For those who wish to recreate the flavors of Thai cuisine at home, Chef Chanin conducts a special cooking class May 7, 9 a.m., in the tradition of The Oriental Culinary Academy in the luxury resort. The cooking class is priced at P3,500 net, inclusive of continental breakfast of homemade pastries, three-course lunch consisting of the cooking class menu and custom, one-hour apron. Those who register for this class and the French cooking class on April 30 by The Tivoli receive one free Bora Vivoli gift at P1,preview discount.

For more information and for reservations, call Mandarin Oriental Manila's Prince Line at 7266888, or e-mail manmd.dig@mohg.com.

THAI Food Festival in Prince Cafe more on Page D 13

MINSTRELS of Hope

Casa San Miguel stages annual Easter concert

CASA San Miguel

CASA San Miguel presents its annual Holy Week concerts, part of the 17th Pasolagui Festival, the country's longest-running community-based arts program.

On Easter Sunday (April 24), Minstrels of Hope celebrate the glory of Christ's Resurrection with their songs of hope. Conducted by Bonifacio Mapa Jr., the choral group is composed of young ladies from the urban poor, and has toured Canada, Thailand and Europe.

The group banded together to reach out to depressed urban areas by sharing their musical skills and talents.

The concert will be held 6 p.m. at the Bernat L. Corpus Hall of Casa San Miguel. Tickets are at P1,000 each, including entrance to galleries, produce cocktails and post-concert dinner with the artists.

Pasolagui Festival Season 17 is supported by Starbucks Coffee and D and L Industries, in partnership with Sony Cycle Homes, The Philippine Star and HOPE The Master's Touch.

For details, call 8818304 or 0915-5036002, or add them in Facebook: Casa San Miguel.

SUMMER CONCERTS AT MEGAWORLD LIFESTYLE CENTERS

This summer catch the hottest pop acts perform at Eastwood in Quezon City, Venice Piazza in McKinley Hill and Newport Mall in Resorts World Manila.

First in the line-up is something to keep the K-Pop fever high. 2AM's lead Jo Kwon, rapper Lee Changmin, vocalist Im Seulong, and vocalist Jung Jinwoon have won many hearts for their sweet notes and heartfelt messages. They first debuted with their single "This Song" in 2008. To date they've released five albums, the latest of which is Saint O'Clock under MCA Universal. With a growing fan base in the Philippines, they're coming for a meet and greet session on April 28 (6pm) at The Plaza at Newport Mall in Resorts World Manila and April 29 (6pm) at Venice Piazza in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio.

To cap off their much-anticipated visit, they'll perform in a grand show on April 30 (5pm) at the Eastwood Mall Open Park in Eastwood City, Quezon City.

Next in line is a musical act that will make your summer more exciting. As the search goes on for this year's American Idol, Venice Piazza and Eastwood City brings you last season's winner of the biggest reality talent search on TV, Lee Dewyze. The paint salesman from Illinois, who auditioned in Chicago on June 2009 for the ninth season of American Idol surpassed the challenges of the contest and won with his amazing voice and talent. As the winner of Season 9, he received a recording deal from Sony Music and the title "American Idol." Just recently, Lee DeWyze won as the Best Male Reality Star at the Teen Choice Awards 2010. Catch American Idol Lee DeWyze in his "Live It Up" album promo tour on May 7, 8PM at the Venice Piazza at McKinley Hill and at the Eastwood Mall Open Park on May 8, 7PM.

EASTWOOD MALL VENICE PIAZZA Newport Mall

For inquiries, call the Megaworld Concierge at 720-0888, 7689-0888, 0917-8500111.
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www.facebook.com/venicepiazza • www.twitter.com/venicepiazza
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SUMMER FINDS AT BABY COMPANY

Summer is bright, with lots of on-the-go fun for Moms and babies as Baby Company showcases its latest collection of furniture, nursing and feeding essentials, carriers, and skincare, and more this April.

There are bright wooden furniture pieces that capture summer's exuberance for baby's nursery, as well as food processors and grinders to serve baby delicious and nutritious food this summer.

Moms taking their babies to their first summer holiday will love the stylish diaper bags designed very much like "it" bags, while Dads can carry baby's essentials in his especially designed backpack. What's more, every P2,000 minimum single receipt purchase of carriers, strollers, walkers or playpens until April 30 entitles one to a free carry-all organizer.

Check out these summer finds and more at the Baby Company section of all SM Department stores and at specialty stores at The Podium, Power Plant Mall, the Annex at SM City North EDSA, SM Southmall, and SM City Cebu. Also visit our website at www.babycompany.com.ph and be a fan of our Facebook page.

This backpack-style diaper bag is great for dads on the go.

Stylish moms will love this pink diaper bag.

Organizer Diaper Bag with double zipper opening and adjustable carry handles.

Add color to baby's nursery with this high chair, crib and cabinet. Present your Baby Company Rizon Card and get 20% off when you purchase any of these items.

Baby Company Baby Wipes are enriched with vitamin E and aloe vera to help protect against diaper rash.

This Uniflo Baby Food Processor Pack includes a squeezer, filter, grater tray and grinding bowl.

This Uniflo Baby Food Grinder is easy to clean and carry.

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THE BABY SPECIALIST

baby's day out

april 1-30, 2011
shop now!

free carry-all organizer
for a minimum P2,000 single-receipt purchase of carriers, strollers, walkers and playpens.

plus 0% interest
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*0% is subject to bank approval; valid only if monthly bills are paid in full

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*Colors of strollers and carry-all organizers may vary from actual items

www.babycompany.com.ph

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

AT THE Mt. Apo summit

10 great PH summits to climb

By Kaby Aurora
Contributor

I WAS ASKED once why I always pack my bags on weekends to endure exhaustion, fast harsh weather and rough terrains, all for the brief glory of standing on top of a mountain.

But our country is blessed with many beautiful mountains. They may be mistreating at first but they reward new inspiring sights to those who dare. To me, here are some of the country's most stunning peaks.

1. Mt. Apo
South Cotabato and Davao

I thinkit is just right to pay homage to the grandfather of Philippine mountains by placing it on top of my list. Mt. Apo, at 2,954 meters, is the highest in the country and that is not all it boasts of. Thickets are treated to a variety of species like moss forests, the crater lake, Lake Venado, the swampland and Apas River.

The highlight for me was trekking our way up to the summit. The first push was actually dramatic. After negotiating for hours in the mossy forest on the second day of our climb, I gasped upon seeing a different scenery of the stretch of grass. It was body daunting and cleansing.

Backtracking was difficult, especially with the stench of sulfur wafting in the air, but it is really a unique sight. Plus, we got to pick and eat wild berries. After this, the reward was standing on the country's rooftop. We got a good peek into the vast surroundings and a few photos before it started to rain. Then, we were on our way down on a different route, heading us to the famed Lake Venado and Apas River.

> Mountains reveal awe-inspiring sights to those who dare, and life-defining experience to those who turn climbing into a passion

2. Mt. Kanlaon (Kanla-On, Canlaon)
Negros Island

Mt. Kanlaon, my most recent conquest, is the highest in the Visayas. This mountain is actually special to me since this is like a home mountain for me. My roots is from Negros where I spent a few vacations starting at this mountain. Mt. Kanlaon is an active volcano with an elevation of 2,435 meters high.

It was a three-day hike along Mapas Mananawin Trail. We arrived in Lacdson City the night before so we wanted late on our trek the next day. We were delayed in our itinerary leading us to set a camp at Makawiwili Peak, one of the volcano's peaks and often used as a vantage point in monitoring the volcano's activities.

A few of the boys decided to go on a bivouac which they regretted the following day after the freezing cold. What was good about it was we were all up early to view the sunrise.

The next day, it was a relaxing trek to the saddle camp, which has an excellent view of the Wanguis Valley, a large caldera and our summit assault.

We were in the afternoon after resting, which was a bad idea because we got only a few seconds of dozing. The trek down the next day was a different story. Although we got a good view of Lacdson City from the small, it was slippery all the way down.

3. Mt. Pulag
Benguet

Mt. Pulag, I think, belongs to a list of things to do before you die. This mountain is very popular even to those who are not into mountaineering, primarily because of the lure of being able to stand on top of the clouds.

Mt. Pulag is known for its sea of clouds. Freezing and waking up to catch the sunrise are all part of the experience.

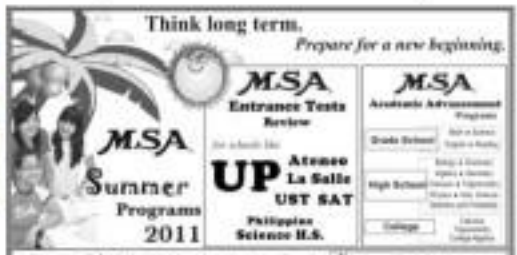
Before sunrise, climbers are already in the summit, praying for clearing and waiting for that first peak. Not all climbers are lucky to be blessed with a good clearing and sea of clouds.

On the descent from the summit back to the campsite, climbers get to enjoy severe sights, including Mt. Pinatubo grasslands and cloud formations.

Mt. Pulag is almost an annual expedition for me since I started getting serious about this hobby in 2007. My first attempt at this sport was in 2005. Writer Alistair Hanley said, "My father encountered a strife among the mountains as the equivalent of church-going." That is Mt. Pulag for me.

4. Mt. Talinis
Negros Oriental

Mt. Talinis' sights are almost unreal. The sulfur forest evokes an unearthly feel akin to forest of dead trees covered in white. The twin crater lakes of Balinsasayao – Lake Malbig and Lake Ingasmayon—are magical. The trails,



CLIMBING Mt. Pulag belongs on the list of things to do before you die.

BABUYAN, named after the highest deity, is an majestic as it is remote.

10 great PH summits to c

From page F1

with Mt. Talinis' very diverse flora and fauna, are fascinating, nonetheless natural.

We had heard mountaineers' stories of the beauty of Mt. Talinis. We call tales here. They were right. It was not overrated. I was shattered by it. It holds some of the nicest sights I've seen so far.

Mt. Talinis, which rests in the Dumaguete City, is also known as Cuernos de Negros, or horns of Negros. It is the second highest peak in the Visayas at 1,903 metres.

5. Mt. Ugo

Benguet

Mt. Ugo is where I really felt there must be a mystic gardener who painstakingly lays out these pine trees to create an amazing landscape. As the mountain, where it is at an very cold, major Cordillera mountains can be seen.

The Mt. Ugo traverse takes two to three days of mountain challenging and passing through hobgob, Uyandyan and Lamut Village.

We had a funny guide last time we climbed Mt. Ugo. Every time we would ask him how far we were from the top, he would just reply "walking distance."

Mt. Ugo is close to my heart. This is where years ago, with friends, we decided to start a group to help needy children who live in the mountains. We called the group TREK or Trails to Empower Kids (www.trailstoempowerkids.com).

While waiting at the jump-off point for our last team to arrive from Mt. Ugo, we relayed our intent to do something for the community. Doing is the connection to Comadre Barbara Paste of Brgy. Tawang Alto.

We were back a month after, on my birthday, in Brgy. Tinongdan to do an outreach program in Sitio Sapluan, a small community nestled in the mountains of Tawang Alto.

With the help of friends and more corporations, we were able to give the students books, backpacks, school supplies, rain coats, underclothes and toys. It was such a rich and humbling experience that we decided to do similar programs, targeting children in isolated communities in the mountains that are either under-served or unserved.

Our group is now on our fourth year and we have already conducted 13 missions in Benguet, Aurora, Kalinga, Apayao, Zambales, Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija. 10 schools with more than 1,100 students, bringing much needed aid, from construction materials of drainage system, comfort rooms to backpacks, raincoats, footwear, school supplies, food, vitamins, first aid kits, toys and books.

6. Mt. Kabuntan

Benguet

The mountain is an majestic as its namesake, and close beautiful. Mt. Kabuntan is the most popular among the Baguio trio, and it is named after the highest deity in the mythology of the Kankana-ey.

They believe that Kabuntan resides in this mountain, as this is a very sacred place. Near the top, wooden coffins can be seen clinging on the side of the mountain's walls.

We also saw some solid peaks and a small forest fire. The view from the trail is organic

PANORAMIC...spectacular backyard's fury on natural rock beauty

A/C Cookies

PICO de Loro... the jewel of Hamilton as it shines

TREK targets children in isolated communities in the mountains, bringing them aid

LAKE Venado at Mt. Apo

Mt Apo

HAMILO

The campsite has a nearby water source and a modular tower. Plus, it is a leisurely walk compared to other mountains.

This is considered a minor climb. Trekking to the campsite takes two to three hours only.

8. Mt. Pinatubo

Central Luzon

It is such a wonder how earth's fury can reveal such a tranquil and beautiful sight. The crater lake, with its white sand and serene blue lake, is actually the culmination of nature's. The trail along the white/ gray mountains and the river is a welcome difference from what Filipino mountaineers are used to, and that is the green/brown trails.

Of course the fun ride to the jump-off point is an added adventure and attraction.

The first time I went to Mt. Pinatubo, we had no rush for hours to reach the crater. Now, it is a leisurely 15 minute walk after the 4x4 ride, using what they call the "sky way," with much of the trail and the view drink fixed.

9. Pico de Loro

Cavite

This popular Cavite mountain got its name from the queen's beak shaped like peak. This is my first successful attempt to reach the summit of a mountain.

Back then, I was as green as the mountain. I had no training. My pack was heavy. I didn't have enough exercise. I walked on a small's pace. Good thing my fellow climbers were very patient with me.

I distinctly remember enjoying watching the stars when we arrived that night and

Mt Pulag

...jumping in over the morning alive as the glow of the mountain and sea with the big clearing line to reveal the blue skies and the verdant terrain in front of us, with the seas of Batangas at a distance.

I Mt. Manalmon

Batangas

The Title is really difficult to choose because there are just so many beautiful mountain adventures in the country.

Mt. Manalmon is one of the mountains of the Malipunyo Range. The summit of Mt. Manalmon gives a spectacular view and is marked by a white cross.

The climax of Mt. Manalmon for me is the low homemade coffee being served all climbers by Manoy Pinyang, who lives in the last outstep. The first time I ventured on Manoy Pinyang's hut, I was too shy to take the coffee. I even asked my fellow climbers if I could pay Manoy Pinyang.

Then, it became a tradition. Even if the weather is scorching, Manoy Pinyang's hot coffee is a relief and the conversations are always good.

Rates for those who want to get into this hobby: Training and finding the right group to climb with are also important. The Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines (mfpi.multiply.com) or MFPI, an association of mountaineering clubs in the country and its member groups regularly conduct basic mountaineering courses and climbs. Details are posted in different social networking sites.

For more on camping and mountain climbing, visit my blog at http://kalipan-trails.blogspot.com/

Summer getaway destination in Bulacan

ANANA WATER PARK Resort, A 5-5 leisure recreational complex, is helping make Bulacan an ideal summer escape for city dwellers.

The brainchild of Enrico Roque, former businessman and now town mayor of Baliuag, Bulacan (he also owns the Tanguisan Beach Resort in Zambales), Ananas Water Park Resort...which is open for both day and night swimming...has a 20,000 sq m water park, an Infinity Pool with a Jacuzzi, an aviator pool, a 60-foot man-made waterfall, a 600 sq m kiddie pool with life sized Dragon ball characters and 12 big waterslides...a first in parts of Central Luzon.

While others have eight or nine waterslides, Ananas Water Park is said to be the first to have 12 different kinds of waters, which includes the "Diamond Water," the biggest water in the country.

It also has swimpens inspired by various tourist destinations in the Philippines such as Boracay, Tagaytay, Palawan, Laoag and Batanes, all made of weather-resistant material offering utmost comfort for its guests. The reasonable rates range from P600 for the Boracay cottage which can accommodate six people, to the VIP rooms good for six people at P1,800.

For companies who wish to rent the place for corporate events, there is a Japanese inspired function hall that can accommodate up to 300 persons with setup and 200 person capacity (for classroom type seating). Other amenities such as sound systems and projectors are available upon request.

Ananas Water Park has other recreational amenities guests can try, such as horseback riding and spa massage at P400 per hour. There is also a picnic grove and souvenir shop.

Day swimming is from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at P200 (adult), below four feet, P150 (adult) and P100 (for senior citizens only IDs). Its hour site prefer night swimming (from 6:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.), the rates range from P120 (adult), below four feet), to P100 (adult) and P120 (for senior citizens with IDs).

To ensure safety diving is not allowed in the pool area. There are also lifeguards who are responsible for the safety of the swimmers in the pool. During night swimming, the wave generating machines are turned off to ensure the safety of swimmers.

The resort also has vitrolite machines available for rent at P1,000/each.

Visit http://www.ananaswaterpark.multiply.com or call (044) 662 2202 or (02) 661 2266.

A WALKWAY at Ananas Water Park is the first to have 12 different kinds of water.

COTTAGES inspired by various tourist destinations in the Philippines

SLIDE, summer escape

Discovery Suites summer hotel package

DISCOVERY SUITES is offering until June 30 an overnight stay in its Junior Suite for P3,000 inclusive of a breakfast buffet at Restaurant Izod and unlimited access to and from the two at 22 Pi-Hotel, or a choice of two rounds of golf at Tanza Spa. Other perks include discount coupons at Chelsea restaurant at The Pavilion, workout passes at Solaire Lifestyle Fitness Center and two P500 discount spa vouchers. The package rate for the executive suite, with a living room, is P4,000. Inclusions help for chilled blisters and dining table. A private at P1,500++ per night. Call 72-8888, 7 19-8000 loc 32 or 519-8888, e-mail reservations@discoverysuites.ph.

Tagaytay hotel package

Summit Ridge Tagaytay's Weekender Package, at P1,200 net, includes use of a room and the hotel's other facilities from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Weekender Package, at P1,200 net, includes overnight accommodation in a twin-sharing room (without breakfast). The King-sharing room is at P1,250 net. For Stay Week, it will 21-26, room rates are P1,250 for twin-sharing, P1,250 for King-sharing, P1,750 for a two-bedroom suite and P17,500 for the Summit suite. Rates are inclusive of breakfast (for two or four people, depending on the room), a Hamilton, 250-slice or traditional massage and a 30-percent discount coupon valid from June-September. Summit Ridge Tagaytay, Sungay East, Tagaytay City, Cavite. Call 240-8888 and (02) 632-8888.

Travel Briefs

Special room rates

Until May 31, a luxury suite at Intercontinental Manila will be priced for as low as P 8,888++ per night for a deluxe room, booking of two consecutive nights. In addition to special rates for all suite categories, guests availing of the Luxury Suite Escape package will enjoy these perks: welcome drink for two at the Executive Bay access to the executive bay Asian Club Intercontinental Lounge for two persons for the duration of the stay, complimentary breakfast, buffet lunch, and dinner, and meetings and lunch, access to complimentary use of the Lounge's meeting room (on a first-come-first-serve basis), free use of internet available in and state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, WiFi access, complimentary breakfast, afternoon tea service and early morning wakeup calls. To prevent disruption to food and drinks at all hotel outlets and a 10-percent discount on Banja Spa and Great Cuts by Angelo Justin Salon services. Local and non-Philippine-passport holders are entitled to enjoy the rates. The offer is not applicable to group bookings of 10 or more rooms and cannot be combined with other special offers. For more details and bookings, call 702-7300.

Bellevue Easter

If the smoke of feasting, keep your body and soul cleansed in a weekend getaway at The Bellevue Hotel, the luxurious Bicutan hotel for the family. Until April 30, head to Café Allado, the hotel's excellent-scale dining outlet, and indulge in a delectable spread of Japanese, Mongolian and Chinese cuisine, served in an unlimited mode and grill favorites. This sumptuous feast is available for lunch and dinner for only P1,288. For inquiries, call 37 1-8181.

Tupperware Brands

Corporation Celebrates its Asia-Pacific Sales Force at Exclusive Gala

A presence in Asia for 50 years, Tupperware Brands hosted its largest gathering of reps from 2008 Summer Olympic Games

Tupperware Brands Corporation hosted the largest ever gathering of its sales force in the Asia Pacific region last April 18, 2011 in Beijing, China, host of the Summer Olympic Games. The festive affair was the first 2008 Summer Olympic venue, the one-day event gathered more than 1,000 sales representatives from the Tupperware, Nutrimetics and Nutrimetics divisions of Tupperware Brands Corporation with delegations from 11 countries across Asia.

"Tupperware Brands has been established in the Asia Pacific market for half a century, and this was an opportunity to celebrate our top sales force members there and more so Tupperware Brands mission of changing women's everyday lives," said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Rick Goings. "The world's future is rightly on Asia, since China, India and Indonesia represent just under 50% of the world's population. Consequently the sun that are well-positioned in these markets are poised to grow in the future. A big driver of that growth is our outstanding sales force, which is bringing Tupperware's incredible savings opportunities and innovative products to the Asia Pacific region's expanding middle class."

The theme of the event was "Celebrating Changing Lives...Building the Future Together" During the day, Tupperware Brands recognized the top sales force achievers and markets, and an evening gala featured top entertainers from across Asia. The company also launched several innovations ever previous from Tupperware and Nutrimetics. Among the innovations Tupperware products given to attendees were the **Individual Microwave Cooker** ideal for preparing an individual portion of rice or soup; the **Ultra Liter Square Eco Water Bottle** vastly practical in all kinds of refrigerator doors; and the reusable and environmentally friendly **Portable Chopsticks / Utensils Case**.

Nutrimetics Australia and New Zealand also provided "no Perfect Look Colour Palette", containing its rejuvenated eyeshadows and blush created by the timeless beauty of Parisian Lines and the "Just Kid" Lip & Eye Transformative Beauty Kit, containing of Ultra Care + Lip Appeal and Ultra Care + Dark Chocolate Brown.

Attendees qualified to participate in the events achieving sales qualifications in the months preceding it. The event was sponsored by Tupperware Brands and was not open to the public.

Tupperware Brands Philippines salespeople Yael Lee and Tupperware Brands Philippines Managing Director Gabriel Lacson and Tupperware Brands Indonesia Managing Director Hendri Kusuma

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About Tupperware Brands Corporation

Tupperware Brands Corporation is a leading global marketer of consumer products sold through independent direct selling representatives. Tupperware Brands manufactures and markets its products through an extensive direct sales force of approximately 2.4 million independent representatives in more than 100 countries around the world. The direct selling channel consists of a network of distributors, managers, dealers and direct sales representatives. Tupperware Brands' direct sales force markets its products through in-home demonstrations, parties and other personal selling methods. The company's products are sold under the Tupperware, Avroy Shlain, Nutrimetics, Fuller, Allure, Bead Fashions, Swissmar, Nuvo and Bel Marra brands. For more information, log on to www.tupperwarebrands.com.

Never before has owning an **Ayala Land** home been easier

It all begins with as little as P5,000 a month - or what you would pay for your monthly supply of branded coffee and a muffin, or two full tanks of gasoline, or a short weekend trip.

By setting aside P5,000 a month over 36 months, you get past the most challenging step for first-time homeowners seeking an Ayala Land home - saving the downpayment. Designed to facilitate easy payments, the Ayala Land Homestarter Bond has simplified the home buying process.

Consequently, more executives, young professionals and start-up families have attained their dream home. The three-year investment tool pays you 5% per annum or higher than regular savings and time deposit rates for as low as P 5,000 initial subscription and monthly investment. After 36 months, your monthly investments plus interest will have grown large enough for you to make that downpayment.

The bond gives you even more when you use it to partially pay for any property developed by Ayala Land's four residential brands names that all represent a sound investment for a lifetime. When applied towards the purchase of a residential unit from Ayala Land Premier, Alveo, Avida and Amaia, you earn a Bonus Credit in a special discount. This special discount can be as high as 4% to 5% off the price tag of your new home.

But if purchasing a property is not your priority for now, you may simply choose to enjoy the earnings from your investments in the Ayala Land Homestarter Bonds net of withholding taxes.

Moreover, payments are easy to make. They are conveniently auto-debited from your account with Bank of the Philippine Islands, BPI Family Savings Bank, or Security Bank.

Whichever option you choose, your P5,000 a month Ayala Land Homestarter Bond investment will go a long way towards building a brighter and more secure future. Offer period is from April 11 to May 6, 2011.

For more details, call:

- BPI Capital at 816-9629, 816-9535, 845-5688, 845-5505 or email cabrapo@bpi.com.ph
- SB Capital at 814-2665, 814-2666 or email sbcapital@securitybank.com.ph

The Levera, also in Makati City, is Alveo's newest development offering serene and style

With Avida Towers San Lorenzo, a quality home in Makati is finally an affordable option

Your dream home is finally in sight.

For as low as P5,000.00 a month, you can start saving up for your downpayment while earning 5% per annum for up to 3 years.

Use your Homestarter Bonds to purchase any Ayala Land property and receive an additional 10% bonus credit on your investment. For more information, call BPI Capital at 816-9629, 816-9535, 845-5688, 845-5505, or email cabrapo@bpi.com.ph; or call SB Capital at 814-2665, 814-2666, or email sbcapital@securitybank.com.ph.

Offer period is from April 11 to May 6, 2011.

AyalaLand HOMESTARTER BOND

Ayala Premier ALVEO Avida Amaia

BPI Capital SB CAPITAL

IN THIS ISSUE
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Father Suarez on the tennis court—and in the vineyard of the Lord

By Constantino C. Tejero

FR. FERNANDO SUAREZ, with his new hand grip on the racket, holds the camera.

FATHER FERNANDO Suarez, the celebrated priest of the Missionaries of Mary Mother of the Poor, offers an interesting explanation of the nature of faith, a commonsensical notion that's often overlooked. It was not the faith of Lazarus that raised him from the dead but that of his sisters Martha and Mary.

"In other words, it is not necessarily the faith of the person that will make him or her whole. The faith of others will suffice.

SEE PAGE E2

The famous healer sees himself as mere conduit for a faith that moves mountains and heals the sick

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NEW! LOTUS BRIGHT
Writes color to life

Fun family pizza now available online

Thank the geek gods for online shopping, enjoying your favorite Shakey's pizza is now literally at your fingertips. With just a click of the mouse, you can order anything from the extensive menu that the leading family restaurant has to offer. When you're stuck at work or want to dine at the comforts of your home, online ordering is the most convenient option to satisfy your cravings for good, old-fashioned, brick oven-baked pizza and more! Online ordering is just the latest innovation that's shaking up all Shakey's outlets.

Shakey's Online Ordering can be accessed through http://www.shakeyspizza.ph. Through this welcome development, the gaps between loved ones living across the miles are easily bridged. It provides two main services: Delivery, wherein the ordering/paying and receiving parties are one and the same; and PizzaPadala, which has two components. PizzaPadala Local is when the ordering/paying party is from anywhere in the Philippines and could consume or claim the ordered product from the ordering/paying party's preferred Shakey's restaurant.

PizzaPadala International is when the ordering/paying party is from anywhere in the world; the receiving party, meanwhile, is from anywhere in the Philippines and could consume or claim the ordered product from the ordering/paying party's preferred Shakey's restaurant.

the ordering/paying party is from anywhere in the world; the receiving party, meanwhile, is from anywhere in the Philippines and could consume or claim the ordered product from the ordering/paying party's preferred Shakey's restaurant.

Shakey's Online Ordering supports the Shakey's culture and brand name, as this service gives guests a higher level of convenience, wider selections and greater accessibility to the stores through the Internet.

Shakey's has always had a deeper understanding of what its guests want, as well as a keen insight on the impact of social media that come into play when guests are trying to decide how to spend their money on which product or service. That's why this delivery service affords the guests a faster and more efficient shopping experience.

Shakey's Online Ordering and PizzaPadala are the real deals that offer awesome value for money. Available 24hours. PizzaPadala are the real deals that offer awesome value for money, a day, any day of the week, guests who have Internet access at home or at the workplace can visit the Shakey's web site, because it is the only pizza chain that offers complete and innovative delivery and gift-giving services.

Father Suarez on the tennis court —and in the vineyard of the Lord

FR. SUAREZ: "The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well..."

A HEALER'S two hands of love

AFTER a game, with tennis coach Dante de Torres (right) and Jun Prias

Sweet gospel fit

Interet spoons the favorite of sinners. "The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well, the Lord will raise them up... The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Here he relates a boyhood incident when he discovered his own power.

When he was six, he saw a paralyzed 60-year-old beggar woman outside Quiapo Church. He asked if she wanted him to pray for her, not to concede her.

Here was that? Had Mama, nor Dad, Father and one lover lie—"highest mercies. If he is not, pray no praying, number who, number she after" Juarez recalls with a flicker of horror in his eyes.

He is having breakfast of fresh salad and lobsters at the poolside of Redwood Club in Makati. With the help of tennis coach Dante de Torres, we have joined more to this private moment of the healing priest, who will be seen a brief, individual prayer over for those at the table, pour up for staff's workbook for a game of tennis, and spares some time to tell his story and reaffirm the power of faith.

Gift for people

Juarez was born in 1967, one of four siblings, in Santa Ibang, Tarlac, Batangas. He was a chemical engineer, a graduate of Adamson University, when went to live in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1995.

In 1999, he saw a vision of thousands of poor children coming to him for help.

The following year, he joined congregation of the Divine, a newly established community of priests and seminarians in Ottawa. This young congregation of the Society of Apostolic Life, only 23 years old, is an offshoot of the Catholic revival in Canada. It is familiar in the Diocesan, with active lifestyle and missionary spirit.

That year, Juarez's spiritual director discovered he had the gift of healing. It was also at around this time he individually received the first twelve copperplate Mass Medal of the Pope from the stipend he received as a missionaries.

After he was ordained in 2002, his spiritual director used to convince him to use his powers of healing, saying: "This gift is not for you but for people."

His first visit to priest he spent as assistant pastor of the Friends of St. Timothy in Ontario. Healing day was once a month, on a Sunday.

"I struggled with it for 10 years," he says. "I felt I was not worthy. I did not want to be the center of attention. I asked God to forgive me long ago."

God, of course, had a sense of humor—because, in 2005, Juarez's superior decided to assign him a specialized ministry.

"Since then, with no strong pressure from me, my healing ministry has grown."

Just pure grace

His ministry has brought him all over the US, Europe, Australia, the Middle East, in every service—he estimates an average of 100 testimonies of solved healing.

He relates that in Baguio, two years ago, a palmreadingist had asked if he has discarded bottles of unused waters and applied it on her cancerous colleagues. To everyone's surprise—"healing!" Juarez exclaims.

"I'm a total conduit," he continues, "just an instrument of the Lord. While doing it, I also supposed, I don't go into it anymore. I don't use miraculous things—that gives from God, and it is they who receive those manifestations of grace."

Now 44, Juarez has been a priest for nine years. He lived in Canada for 11 years but has never given up his Filipino citizenship.

In 2007, in his absence, he was cited as one of the country's Outstanding Young Men, for religious service. Two years ago, he returned to the country for good.

Last year, he founded the Missionaries of Mary Mother of the Poor (MMP), composed of three priests living in a unit in Montemarin (formerly Sunnyside), Alfonso, Cavite, on a 2½-hot land overlooking Batangas Bay, which was donated by Ian Miguel Cuny. (Juarez says he was told IMC stocks rose after the donation.)

It is a temporary shelter called the Granary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a makeshift chapel that has become a pilgrim church where the faithful gathers for his healing ceremony at 10 am every Saturday and Sunday.

Weekend visitors average 20,000, and 50,000 the whole week. On Holy Tuesday, 18 truckloads of pilgrims came, and Juarez held a three-hour Lenten recollection and healing session.

Soon the place will have a 61-strong, 3500-seater of Mary Mother Queen of Peace, where he envisions a congregation of faith, at a time when a deranged child used to ruin the Basilica de la Inquisición into a towering cube.

Preferential option

Juarez says MMP is self-sustaining—largely from donations, plus a cottage industry of rosary beaded, Zimbabwe pearls, round, crystal; it would run like mid-role for P300.

Those travelers are being won by celebrities such as boxing champs Manny Pacquiao and Donito Donaire, even Israeli ex-Mossad agent Avi Dichter, who has no imagine the kind of endorsement.

Pacquiao, in fact, had asked Juarez for a pray-over before two recent fights. He says pacquiadly anxious about his forthcoming bout with Oscar de la Hoya (we know what happened next).

Other celebrities who have sought out the priest for a pray-over are SWE chair Brenda Lumagas, businessman Tonyboy Cojuangco, actress Amalia Fuentes, businessman Gregg Aquino, TV newscaster Vicky Morales. Juan Ponce Enrile sent shotty after the pray-over.

This gives rise to the issues that Juarez has a confessional option for the rich and famous. Which people contributes what he is known to have been doing all these years.

Once a month he gives to poor parishes all over the country. In last given 130 impoverished families in Batangas a food-basket in the immediate of money in baskets.

Small payments from his healing ministry go to the MMP, which is into sponsoring families, seminarians, seminarians, feeding students, hosting medical missions, starting classrooms, building houses in depressed areas.

Juarez celebrates TV Mass every third Sunday of the month, 8 a.m., on Channel 2, and every second and fourth Sunday on IVS. He hosts a program, "Healing Juarez," 6-8 p.m., on Radio Veritas.

Normal human being

At lunch focus all find, religious lovers and wonderers and doubts, he runs. It has every day and plans events for three hours—almost twice a week.

"Love no also in playing tennis," he says. "Believe, just love football."

Tennis caught his interest a few years ago in Canada, during international conferences for the priests. Dante de Torres was invited to say the invocation. He has since played with Davis Cuppers Felix Barrientos, Raymond Tumbl (no relation), Roland So.

He says he prays before and after a game, and his hand goes Hands while playing, so he can concentrate on his shots. He gets the racquet with both hands, volleyher for forehand or backhand, which makes for very strong ground strokes. (No psychological will, really.) He loves an quick on the court, able to run after every ball.

"After a game, surgeons say dispositive to, I'm not cranky, as I can relate with people better," he says. "It's a way to be a normal human being."

So it's not really true what some say that he does in his healing power from tennis. If at all, he gets from it the energy and stamina to survive hectic schedules and hearing crowds.

He is also promoting tennis among fellow priests, and organizing tournaments thrice a year. He estimates some 100 priests and bishops all over the country are now regular tennis players (the oldest being 74-year-old Bishop Wilfredo Manlapaz of Tagum, Davao del Norte).

As one can see, even at play Fr Fernando Suarez is diligent. It is working in the vineyard of the Lord.

VICTIM makeovers

ANOINTING OIL: healing session after breakfast

Her husband is a mama's boy

DEAR EMILY,

I am married to a guy who is an absolute mama's boy. We've been together four years, and we're still living with his mom. We agreed with her when she says we don't have the means to get our own place.

That is not true. We are both working professionals, and we have no kids! We can afford to get a simple home, start our own life, and make our own decisions, but he's like, "Marriage is? To be mature enough to live on our own?

I am becoming desperate, as I feel we will never truly live as a couple as long as we are in his mom's house. She micro-manages everything and every move in her son's life. My husband even gives her his paycheck, and she in turn gives him a weekly allowance. It has been their practice ever since. We do not have any joint savings, which further compounds the problem.

My husband and his mom are very comfortable with this arrangement, and I am the one insisting that we move out. My bad many plans before we get married, but never had a chance to worry them out. When I ask him about our future, he becomes defensive, and says that I am impatient and should realize that "we" are not ready to be on our own.

I feel like I have to do everything by myself. I have been independent since my school days, and I feel so trapped and helpless in this relationship. We are both in our 30s. I don't want to lose respect for my husband, but frankly, sad, sweet, myself.

DULCE

Hi, hey—you're in a threesome. And the third person is not even a person!

They say a man can have many wives but will only have one mother. It's just your tough luck that his mother will not allow her "baby" to grow up! How can you fight that? And how can you assert you're a queen when she treats your husband like a prince?

Either you put your foot down and take your rightful place in this marriage, or give him an ultimatum that will transform him into the husband you'd want him to be, without resorting to violence or violence.

Why not only your husband, but your mother-in-law, as well. You cannot silently share virtues on him without getting on the nerves of his mother. Your independent spirit has no bearing on them. That's just you. You mentioned someone whose childhood wasn't been covered yet, sad to say.

You are the stranger, the outcast, therefore the intruder in the relationship—no matter if you've been around your fingers. Didn't you have an inkling of this close relationship?

If she's an intelligent woman, she will know that in the end, she'll have to accept your presence, if she wants a peaceful household. With all your negative feelings toward your in-laws, the only has the best intentions for her son. Yet, despite his being a mama's boy, she knows she has no control over him the moment he becomes your husband when you walk through your bedroom door—what's your say in that?

Give them time to adjust to you. Use your instantly to read them. Don't just look from your perspective. You've been married two years. In the light of his. Begin your relationship with his mother. Don't label or drop in the bucket. You barely know him!

Use your imagination and a lot of creativity to win them over to you. Try saying, "You can catch more flies with a honey than with vinegar" some days. Relationships rewrites, makes appear. Health improves. What's there to lose?

Keep your mind open. You may even enjoy this "threesome" someday!

E-mail the author at emilypost@inquirer.com.ph or emilypost@yahoo.com. Subject: Lifestyle

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Mariñas

She's in a threesome, and the third person is not even a mistress

"NIDLI Ha Tangere," by Fra Angelico

SANCHUARIO de la Soledad

From Florence's Renaissance glories to the heart of our nation

By Ito Matalo
Contributor

I HAD taken my mother on a trip to Florence to cheer her up after my father's death. Since she had seen most of the important sights, we decided to concentrate on those that were not so popular and populated. This would mean the Palazzo Davanzati, the Bargello, the Francesco Chapel, and the San Marco.

The Davanzati Museum is museum on Florentine home life. Its star attraction is a Renaissance period toilet. For some reason, bathroom facilities from earlier historical periods always manage to draw crowds.

The Bargello is the city's sculpture museum. Among its most famous pieces are the statues of David, which predate Michelangelo's own celebrity creation.

The Brancacci Chapel is in the Church of the Carmelites. Somebody here in Manuscrit's "Expulsion of Adam and Eve." A wonderful fresco is an unattended Sin Delay shown in a small underground, which brings to life the figures in the church's murals.

After viewing the sights, we were in an haunted we couldn't resist a cool drink at a museum cafe. Since beverages are so expensive in tourists spots in Europe, I found myself asking if I could keep the gorgeous deep blue bottle. Happily, it was no problem to my bargain-hunter mother, who, I realized years later, is ground Florentine origins.

Most memorable

Of all the places we had seen on this trip, what was certainly the most memorable was the Dominican church of San Marco. The thing not to miss is the second floor of the cloister. Here, the monks' quarters have been decorated with paintings by that most beatific of artists, Fra Angelico.

Negotiating the steps at a time, I, my mother and Fra Angelico refused standard size at the head of the stairs. On the opposite wall was one of the acknowledged masterpieces of European art: Fra Angelico's "Annunciation." I could not help but pause and stare in silence. It is not often that one is in the presence of such perfection.

I am not sure if it was the way the light surround to spread around the work, lingering to caress the face of the Virgin. Perhaps it was the subtle power of the many symbols employed: the arch round hands at the apex of the frame proclaiming the perfection of the Lord; the trees growing vigorously behind a fence, alluding to the fact that humanity had lost with the fall of Adam and Eve.

Perhaps it was the fine stylistic nuances of an inner room lit only by the light from a single window. Was this an allegory of the soul, pierced by the Divine light? Then, too, there was the lawn with its luminous carpet of flowers—a reference to Mary being the "enclosed garden," indicative of her supposed perpetual virginity.

One cell held a crucifixion with a witness dressed in the robes of the Dominicans. Another was festooned with a fresco depicting the Mocking of Christ. Surrounding the blindfolded Messiah are clenched hands and heads. One of the heads is spitting at the Nazarene. It seems the painter wanted to do away with the cumbersome distractions of rooms and halls, paring down the scene just to its essentials.

This urge to pare down is seen even in the cubes. Sufficient in monumental covered with washed-out hues. Instead of royal blue and crimson, there are lime greens and pinks. Evidently, even vibrant tones can create further distractions. Since they titillated the eyes and deadened the pains, there really was no place for them in a sanctuary for meditation and contemplation.

The art historian Georgio Dell-Ho-Iormian even suggests that Fra Angelico may have painted some walls to resemble marble, but not because he wanted to evoke luxury. What was being conveyed was that all this richness was really illusory and fleeting.

Frugal environment

Interestingly, such a frugal environment had actually been home to a person who certainly was wealth and grandeur of the age. Beginning around 1437, no less than Cosimo of the Medici, Medici chief, decided to commission artists like Michelozzo to expand and embellish San Marco. Cosimo had a room in the cloister reserved for him, well, and it was here he would retire when he needed to rest from the affairs of Florence. There, he could pretend to be a monk devoted to nothing else but meditating on the sins of the earth.

Since we're definitely not alien to Florence, As the capital of the Renaissance, it had a Shakespeare, which would leave it abandoned. It was from all this decadence that another of San Marco's gifted occupants arose.

The Dominican monk Savonarola would capture the imagination of the city such his "bonfires" sermons, which produced pandemonium. Even Florentines did not repress. He was so convincing that he managed to urge the citizens to burn their luxuries, provocative works of art and books, in what came to be known as the Bonfire of the Vanities.

Today, Savonarola's cell is dominated by his portrait. His is surely the epic, one of a grim and determined face. Unfortunately for the little monk, the ornaments could be fickle. There was a backlash against all this sporadic piety and the moralistic Dominicans found himself in the midst of his own bonfire. The scene of his execution is commemorated in a painting that also hangs in his room at San Marco.

Moving scene

In the end, though, what really captured my imagination was a painting of the encounter between Mary Magdalene and Jesus on Easter Morning. We see that the setting is a beautiful garden, just like the one in the Annunciation. But unlike some become library in, after all, the garden from which Christ derived.

Yet, there is a difference: The large pots trees are now on one side of the frame. Most all, Christ now believe that with the Resurrection, Paradise had been regained. A closer look, as suggested by Dell-Robertson, will reveal that the flowers are sprinkled with blood. There are even drops in the shape of crosses, reminders that it was the Passion that made the Earth bloom again.

This moving scene had been the subject of many works of art through the centuries. I was reminded by the label outside the cell where the Dominicans lived, that this scene is universally referred to as the Noli Me Tangere. This Latin phrase, which means "Do not cling to me," or "Do not touch me," are the words Christ uttered to Mary Magdalene meant to embrace him.

Imagine, after having seen Jesus being tortured and then dying on the cross, there is asked not to give in to her emotions so to wrap the Messiah in her arms! It must be this painful irony which inspired artists from Titian to Durer to portray this dramatic moment.

Of course, the Filipinos, "Noli Me Tangere" can only mean Jose Rizal's immortal novel. What's is why as I contemplated the beautiful painting in the cloister of San Marco, a question inevitably formed in my mind: Could our hero have been inspired by this very same fresco I was beholding?

Later on, I would learn that though he did visit Florence, this was after the "Noli" had already been completed. But there is still one last fascinating clue. In a book about Rizal's great friend, Ferdinand Blumentritt, Harry Sicherosky notes that our hero was inspired by the "Noli Me Tangere" painting of Correggio in the Prado.

We there a connection between the novel and the many art works whose title it shares? Can readings of the biblical passage be the basis for new interpretations of Rizal's novels?

These would be the subjects of future essays. In the meantime, I take comfort in the knowledge that even in the middle of the Renaissance glory of San Marco, there is a definite thread that goes all the way back to the heart of our nation.

CRUCIFIXION in the cloister

ENTRANCE of the church

FACADE of San Marco in Florence

Champagne all you can in Tagaytay

WITH PARTY Ventures in Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay features for Easter Sunday extended Oysters and Champagne cocktail mixes for P1,000. Chef Daniel Pantry Antipolo will serve Italian specialties with Classic Red Wine Mignonette, Romanoff-Cocktail Sauce, Vertiere's Signature Ginger Shallot Granita, Apple-Ginger Mignonette and Sauce "Grillotte" with Capers and Cornichons.

Discovery Country Suites have seven Premium Luxury Units featuring the spacious Deluxe and Numbered rooms, which offer views of East Lake. Rates start at P10,000 for a premier suite inclusive of a country breakfast, wine and cheese cocktails and special turn down amenities. It is managed by Wildi Suites Hospitality Management.

Call 3208111 or 049-4124040; e-mail dsr.sales@discovery.com.ph.

Buffet lunch in 22 Prime

Families can have a lunch buffet at 22 Prime restaurant at Discovery Suites in Ortigas for P1,495 per person. The Center spread includes healthy salads, savory soup and appetizers, hot dishes, meat servings like the famous Prime Rib.

The "Happy Ever Easter" event will be in the Columbus Function Room with games, raffle, Easter egg hunt. Reservation is P600 per person with the kiddie buffet, games, magic show. Revelers will then be escorted to The Podium Mall for more indoors and a movie show. Call 7180000, 914-9000; e-mail boni@discovery.com.ph.

'Alice in Wonderland' Easter party

Diamond Hotel Philippines will have an "Alice in Diamond Wonderland" theme on Easter. There will be face and egg painting, cupcake decorating, glitter tattoo, kids cuisine, games, live performances in the Grand Ballroom on April 24, 10 a.m. to p.m. & Weekends 2D Lite. Bed bags and complimentary treats will be generous. Tickets at P700 per person.

Avail of the room package for rooms/suites worth P9,300/with April 24, weekend of an overnight stay, in Superior room and buffet breakfast for two at Cascades restaurant, lounge hour free internet, complimentary use of the swimming pool, and ticket to the Easter event.

Staying for two consecutive nights and get the package for P4,000 per night.

Diamond Hotel Philippines is at Roxas Boulevard corner Dr. J. Quintos St., Manila. Call 5238000, e-mail reservations@diamondhotel.com, visit www.diamondhotel.com.

Lenten book sale

OMF Literature, publisher of inspirational Christian books, will have a book sale on April 24. Get 30 percent off on all books and DVDs at the Ortigas and Pasong Tamo branches. Time Your Love Language Devotional," by Gary Chapman; "Give Wise Daily Insights with Zig Ziglar"; "Knowing the Heart of God," by Julie Gillespie; "Bible," by Eugene Peterson.

Kathryn Dent and Pastors' Exchanges members also get a free copy of Mission for every Bible and devotional purchased.

Call 637-8605, 637-7017; e-mail inquire@OMFLit.com; visit omflit.com.

'Visual Chronicles' photo exhibit

"Visual Chronicles" photo exhibit, April 26-29 in Greenbelt 5, Makati, captures destinations around the world taken by enthusiasts. Featured are James Libardo Ayala's montages of Boston, Marrakesh, president Arthur Ty's shots of Italian cities, Supreme Court Justice Jose Mendoza's frames of Prince Piotr, author Feline Dia Maria's pictures of Turkey, young hobbyist Isabel Francisco's documentation of Paris, and Ana Pacheco and Natalia Zubiri's travels in Africa.

All the photos are published in the travel issue of Lifestyle Asia, a publication of Mega Publishing Group.

Modeling workshop

Project Runup modeling workshop will be on April 29-May 30, 1-7 p.m., in Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan.

April 30—Introduction by Gay Ajuzeta, who has produced concerts for Pinoy Pinoy, Style and Regine Velasquez, and co-produced Repertory Philippines plays like "Les Miserables" and "My Fair Lady." There will also be lectures on Physical Hygiene by Dr. Alan San Jacinto to maintain a good smile, healthy skin by Mary Mendoza, modelling product development manager of Ale Cosmetic, professionalism by celebrity Glamour "Kuya Dennis" Moreno, modelling techniques by former Ms. Filipinas and current trainer Celia Figueroa.

April 30—Talks on basic image and projection by model-photographer Jose Milagrosa, posture development and suitable exercise by Bobbi Ryan Head instructor Paolo Ramos.

May 7—Basic makeup application and hair styling demo by Laurel Ramos, who put up Creations Salon in Greenbelt 3, and creative stylist of Emphasis Salon in Rockwell, followed by a shoot by ABS-CBN photographer Allan F. Gonzales.

May 14—Discussion on fashion's and etiquette by fair facilitated by magazine editor Imagay Vista Diaz, and nightly dance of proper body language by stage writer and director Pat Valera.

May 21—Proper catwalk modeling by a instructor guest speaker.

May 28—Preparation for the grand finale, grouping of models, fitting of clothes, blocking and rehearsal.

May 29—Run-through with with sounds with students in casual clothes.

May 30—Full-dress rehearsal, then grand fashion show finale at 8:30 p.m.

Enrollment fee is P12,500 inclusive of snacks/meals, freebies and gift certificates from Bio Essence, Golds Gym, Dr. Tan's Dental Clinic, and Ortigas. For every group of five, one gets in for free. Call 2132121 or 0917-5306264.

HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW ABOUT PINOY FOOD?

Pioneering advocacy returns to unite food lovers

By Annelle S. Tayao

IT'S AN undeniable fact: Filipinos love to eat. Whether it's savoring lola's traditional recipes at home, or trying out innovative Pinoy dishes at a modern restaurant, we have a deep passion for good food.

But while we are aware of our gastronomic likes and dislikes, a lot of us aren't exactly knowledgeable on local fare—their origins, preparation, ingredients. How many of us can easily say why we like a certain adobo or sinigang or crispy pata (aside from the usual, "Oh, because it's so... good!)?

There's also interesting trivia many of us don't know about our food that's linked to the country's history—for example, how many are aware that our national hero José Rizal's documented favorite viands were guinataang sinaggol (sardines estas commonly known as tuyo)?

One factor why we don't really know too much of our culinary heritage could be because "there has never been a governing body, law or program that protects or documents Filipino food," according to Tracey Santiago of Vaping Cuisinang Walwal (Old Kitchen Tours). "The only governing body that can declare anything 'national' is the Office of the President. There have been a lot of unofficial reports or articles of this national dish but this cannot be 'official' unless it is declared by the President of the Philippines."

She adds that our geographical and cultural differences could also be reasons for our lack of concrete information on our culinary heritage. "We live in a country where we are divided by 7,107 islands, and variation and diversity are a standard."

Campaign to educate Pinoy dining public

But Joanna Limsuanco-Gendrano, executive chef of Unilever Food Solutions also notes that "there's a trend now of eating out. Most people go to certain destinations to try the food."

Banking on Pinoys' growing eagerness to try out new food haunts, Unilever Food Solutions has relaunched "Sooo Pinoy," a food campaign advocating dining out at Pinoy restaurants, to discover more about our local cuisine.

Last year, Sooo Pinoy's focus was to find what local dish was most popular among Pinoys (sinigang was top choice); this year, it's more on educating the dining public on the culture behind the food.

"So now is a good time to really hype that up and talk about dishes more and let people explore," says Gendrano. Sooo Pinoy's official spokesperson. "We want diners to know why [a dish] is good, for them to be able to tell the difference between one restaurant's cooking method from another," she adds.

Tracey Santiago of Vaping Cuisinang Walwal dishes out little known facts about Pinoy cuisine.

Chef Joanne Limsuanco-Gendrano, executive chef of Unilever Food Solutions encourages everybody to find out more about their walwal Filipino dishes through the Sooo Pinoy campaign.

Log onto the Sooo Pinoy Facebook site and sing your praises for sinigang.

Can the best kitchen only be found in Batangas? Keep reading the feature or log on to www.facebook.com/SoooPinoy to find out.

With 'the trend now of eating out,' Unilever Food Solutions encourages diners to try out more Filipino dishes and restaurants

Sooo Pinoy on Facebook

The campaign's main avenue will be its Facebook page, which will have a monthly feature on one Pinoy dish. Little-known interesting trivia will be collected, with the help of Santiago, and posted on the page. In-depth stories on the featured Pinoy dish will be available, too.

To help diners decide which Pinoy resto to try out, 30 restaurants, which serve the month's featured dish as their specialty, from all over the country, will be displayed on Sooo Pinoy's FB page. The campaign won't just limit its selection to Metro Manila-based establishments—it will be a nationwide array of recipe-rants, to expose Pinoys to the country's regional cuisines.

Campaign aids chefs and restaurateurs

Aside from educating the dining public, Sooo Pinoy also takes into consideration the chefs and cooks who pour all their expertise in creating something new and interesting for their customers. "[Chefs] can have this avenue to talk about how they prepared the dish, where they sourced ingredients, and also, of course, there's the ambience, the heritage of the recipe," Gendrano says. "It's a very fun, interesting way of motivating people to eat out, and eat at Filipino restaurants," says Gendrano. "And there's the educational component. Once you get to know more about Filipino food, you can know more about our nationality."

Log onto Facebook and like the Sooo Pinoy fan page, learn little known facts about Filipino cuisine and vote for what you think is the best restaurant that serves the featured dish of the month. Also, keep reading Philippine Daily Inquirer Lifestyle section for more delicious updates on the campaign.

Sing your Pampanga or Ilocano culinary crop, but now, almost every restaurant serves their own version of this dish.

Do you have what it takes to be a restaurateur? Here's how these recipe-rants got started.

Filipino foodies assist Unilever Food Solutions' Sooo Pinoy advocacy bring people together through their appreciation of Filipino cuisine.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emerie G. Velarde

Mariah talks twins, shares nursery pictures

Mariah Carey hasn't even given birth to her twins yet, but she's already daydreaming the idea of more children. The expectant mother, who talked about her pregnancy to Life & Style magazine, admits it would require "a much stronger person" than her to go through pregnancy again, adding she's "ready to be done." Carey and husband Nick Cannon are expecting a daughter and a son this spring. AP

Cheek Factor

Charice talks about her new Hollywood movie

"This is my first big movie," says Charice of "Here Comes the Boom."

LOS ANGELES—"I call him dad and he calls me sirak," Charice said with a hearty laugh over the phone. She was talking about Reggie Lee, who plays her father in the movie they're filming in Boston, "Here Comes the Boom." She sounded cheerful on the other line.

"Ah, daddy Reggie!" Charice exclaimed when we first mentioned the Filipino actor in our interview—our phone call. Over the years, we've profiled the Filipino-American actor who appeared in such films as "Life As We Know It," "Thing Me to Hell," the second and third "Fitness of the Caribbean" movies and various TV shows.

Reggie and Charice join Salma Hayek, Kevin James and Henry "The Fonz" Winkler in the comedy-action directed by Frank Coraci, whose credits include "The Waterboy," "Bedtime Stories" and Kevin's coming "Zookeeper."

When we asked Charice if her character is Filipino as originally written in the script by Kevin, Allan Loeb and Rock Reuben, she answered, "No, when they gave me the script, my character was supposed to be a Vietnamese. When I got the role, and they found out that I'm FILipina, they changed it. It was so many of them."

Mulia the brainiac

It's not every day that a Hollywood movie features Filipino father and daughter roles. In fact, Reggie told us in an e-mail interview that "this is the first Filipino character I've ever played!" That's a striking statement since he has been acting in Hollywood since the mid-1990s.

"My character's name is Mulia (rolrich dot pronounced) Mulia(rez) de la Cruz," Charice said. "I am Kevin's student. I'm part of the school's music program. I play the piano. Kevin plays a high school biology teacher who mistakes us a martial arts fighter in some music program. Mulia is like a brainiac. She loves music and biology. She's one of the people who supports Kevin."

"This is my first big movie," gushed Charice, whose career has grown by leaps and bounds since we first met her on the set of "Idol" and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" where she made a cameo appearance.

She's thrilled to have a Filipino co-star, especially one who shares the Pinoys' passion for voting. The 18-year-old singer-actress said that as she got ready to have dinner with Reggie in Boston, he texted her: "Ummm no ako, ha." She chuckled, obviously relishing having a fellow actor who speaks Tagalog. "He is nice," she said. Kevin and Henry joined them in the dinner.

'Fun experience'

Saying that filming "... Boom!" has been "a fun experience" so far, Charice is looking forward to get back on the set on May 9 "cuz I can't wait to go back and do more scenes," she said. "Kevin, Salma Hayek and Henry Winkler are really nice. That is what I like about doing a movie."

On working with Henry, a TV legend because of his lovable cool character, Fonzie, in the "Happy Days" series, Charice commented: "Before I went to the set, I researched about everybody. I spent hours watching 'Happy Days' on YouTube. When I went to the set and I knew was Fonzie, I was about to tell him about how much I love 'The Fonz.' He said, 'I know you. I saw you on 'Oprah' and you're amazing.' He is so sweet. I was like, 'Oh my God, I'm a fan.' And he was like, 'Oh, you're so cute!'"

When we talked last Monday, Charice disclosed that she was scheduled to record another song the following day for a future episode of "Glee." She returned to the hit series last Tuesday. As for her character Jonathon Coulson's

CHARICE PEMPENGCO

Only in Hollywood

Rahbert U. Sepulcro

OPENING THIS WEEK

Pak! Pak! My Dr. Kwak!

Directed by Tony Y. Reyes; stars Vic Sotto, Bea Alonzo, Polemong, Jose Manalo, Wally Bayola, Eyriel Manabat, Eugen Gonzalez

Angel Chumchiller helps Jake Sandoz (Sotto) to redeem himself by rescuing him with a quirky doctor (Alonzo). "It's a clash between science and baby," says Sotto. Graded "B" by the Cinema Evaluation Board, this comedy mixes Expensify Aliens and Rayuan Pop and Sons. "This project made me realize that nothing is impossible among friends," Sotto relates. He admits that he's a fan of Alonzo's routine with John Lloyd Cruz.

Arthur

Directed by Jason Winer; stars Russell Brand, Helen Mirren, Greta Gerwig, Jennifer Garner, Nick Nolte, Luis Guzmán, Geraldine Sutton

Comedian Jeric [Brand] is a rom-com, sex-crazed, must-choose, Mary and video up on Jeric his inheritance. Tommy's Jeric Chong calls it an "innocent, friendly therapeutic comedy." Los Angeles Times' John Mosher agrees: "Hope and possibilities do not a movie make. I'm guessing even Christopher Guest is versa." Mill Movies' Glenn Kenny dunks Brand "carries first hand with his low-resistance effing anti-child like energy."

ZACHARY Gordon and Devon Bostick

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

Directed by David Bowers; stars Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick, Steve Zahn, Rachael Harris, Owen Fielding, Connor Fielding

Older brother Rodrick's bullies pesky kid (Gordon), but then pursues weird fruits to bond. Jessica Kiang-mund's Bowd throws back it as "peppy, energetic and wisely staying ... amid heartwarming." Philadelphia Inquirer's Carrie Rickey notes: It's "a funny comedy you don't have to be a wimpy to enjoy." Houston Chronicle's Amy Biancolli points out: It "marks an improvement on the original ... but has a steep, uneven mile-wide."

VANESSA Hudgens and Alex Pettyfer

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Beastly

Directed by Daniel Barnz; stars Alex Pettyfer, Vanessa Anne Hudgens, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Neil Patrick Harris, Mary-Kate Olsen

Handsome brat (Pettyfer) is cursed by Gods when (Olsen) and becomes a hideous beast. How "Bell, Part's Lost Lit-mance meets "Mean Girls lets up to in some with obscenely perfect-ness ... cheesy effects." New York Times' Manohla Dargis concludes. It's "Beauty-Beast" combat entertainment, but take-aways were made for." Orlando Sentinel's Roger Moore concurs: "Witty, suave, well-cast and often wickedly funny."

DEMI Lovato

Devon Lovato quits Disney TV show

LOS ANGELES—Teen star Demi Lovato is leaving her Disney Channel hit show "Sonny With a Chance," stating that returning after treatment to her career is and calling her self would not be healthy for her recovery.

Lovato, 18, who already has two albums and Hindi magazine she would focus on her music in the future.

"I made some be me to go ahead and leave the show to be on my music," the actress told People. "It's not that I don't love my life has ended but Been couldn't be a better time for me to start out. I don't think going back to 'Sonny' would be healthy for my recovery."

Lovato played a Wisconsin teen in "Sonny With a Chance" who leads a main role on her favorite TV show. The Emmy Channel series debuted in 2009, and helped make Lovato one of the cable network's biggest entertainment.

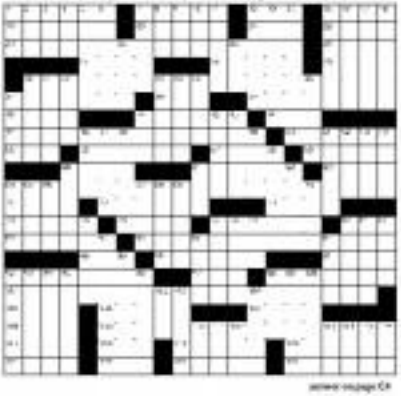
But she abruptly quit a season one with the show's finishes her November and entered a three-month treatment program for emotional and physical issues.

Avanes

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

PARTICULAR CATS



answer on page C4

Charice talks about her new Hollywood movie

From page B1

future in the show, she said: "Right now, I have no idea. I don't even. I just what's going to happen to my character. They just give the script and the song at the last minute."

She talked about almost failing to meet fellow Pinay Darren Criss on the "Glee" set. "I didn't see him and I was about to leave," she explained. A good mimic, Charice imitated Darren's voice as she recounted the actor telling her "Charice! Oh, I have to hug you. I am half-Filipino and I am very proud of you. When I went back to the Philippines, everybody was always talking about you."

She continued: "Darren and I had pictures together and I just sit down on Twitter."

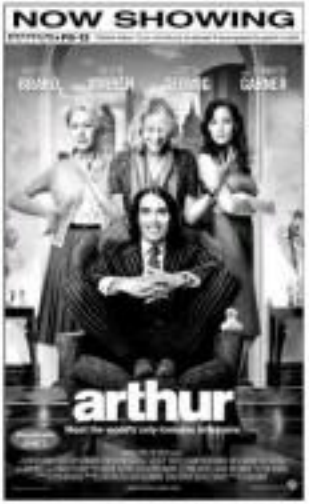
Charice admitted that once Hollywood has put to roast is Gwyneth winner Emma Thin who wrote and produced her new single, "Bullets It Explodes." "That is funny [to] harvest, [me] him," she admitted. "We did the song with, out sending each other. I sang the song and he produced it. I would love to meet him."

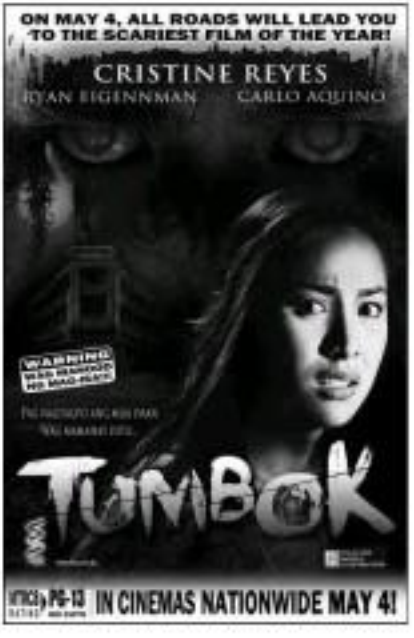
Young father

Sib Bill Exodal out from Reggie that he is playing Charice's dad reboot we asked him about his Mr. Do In Cruz character. "Believe it or not, I'm playing Charice's father?" the young-looking Reggie retorts back. "The director, Frank Cornet, hired me without an audition. It's [I'm grateful that he trusted] me to create the character, even though they thought I was too young to play the part. They ended up giving some of my hair for the shoot. My character is definitely a man with very strong familial beliefs and is quite against the existence of his daughter. But he comes around."

Reggie offered another bit here is or not bit: "Charice and I

CONTINUED ON





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Charice talks . . .

From page H3

don't have any scenes together! There was a scene with us at the end in an earlier draft [of the script] but they found a better for the story if we were in two different places."

Star Reggie said that he and Charice got to know each other at the dinners. "She is an amazing, positive person," he commented. "I feel more like a protective big brother than a friend. I had not met her before this movie but now, we keep in touch. I go back to Boston beginning of May to finish shooting. Hopefully, I will spend a little time with her then."

Asked for an update of his love scenes, Reggie happily obliged. In "Connect," a TV pilot that he shot for NBC with "the amazing Sean Maguire," he portrays Benjamin Wu, a colleague of the main character played by David Giannoli. "It's a wonderful script by the writers of Rugrats and 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer,' David Greenwalt and Jim Kouf. I love the story of my character. It's keeping my fingers crossed as the series gets picked up!"

Fulfilling experience

"Solo" is one hit movie coming out this year. "I play the adversary of Aaron Stafford's character in the film," he volunteered. "I had a very fulfilling experience playing this character because I was with a 10-year-old girl for much of the shoot." Reggie said that he said several hit character's relationship to the girl, who is described on IMDb as a "young Chinese girl [who] has visual symptoms of some destructive science experiment." He only said: "But my character takes care of her in the film. There's a different emotional twist to the character that other roles could have been not as rewarding."

Reggie admitted that he accepted a small role offered by the directors of "Crazy, Stupid, Love," Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, "because it involved a scene with Julianna Moore, Steve Carrell, Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone and Kevin Bacon. You couldn't go wrong with that."

At the moment, Reggie is also appearing in "Fanboy," a short film that is the directorial debut of Sam Daniel's wife, Gillian Grazon, "because I just dig them both seriously."

On the imminent TV series "American Dad!", he voices a character "with Sandra Oh playing my wife. That's fun. That happens periodically through the year."

We'll write more extensively about Charice in a later column.

Happy Easter, dear readers!

E-mail the columnist at rvnapala_5245 *@yahoo.com.*

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Greenbelt

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7: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2

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3: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2
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6: BEASTLY
7: RESERVED

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2: SOURCE CODE
3: IRIS MOMMAS: LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON
4: RIO (3D)
5: ARTHUR
6: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2
7: PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAKI

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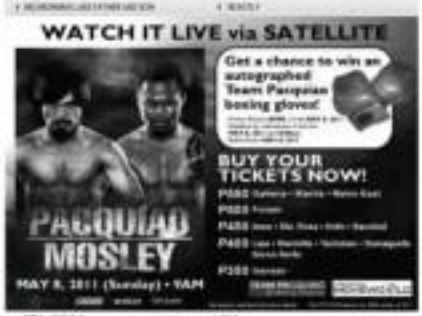

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Cute hunk stars in suspicious video

By the Entertainment staff

THE LATEST sex video scandal looks suspicious.

After all, controversies seem to be the best way to maintain a career these days, supposedly among talent-less folks.

Observer suspects that the explicit video conveniently going viral (on the Net and in cell phones) was concocted to "jump-start" Cute Hunk's career.

In the video, CH allegedly indulges in lascivious acts—alone.

Call him this-fish.

It's just unfortunate that his most favorable facts (viral statistics) are the ones that dragged CH's name into the mainstream.

The fifth should be careful, but they be accused of engaging in a scandalous campaign against stars from competing channels.

Beauty bounces back

Stormy Penny Hunt has bounced back from her breakup with Oliver Bean.

And what better way to prove that she has recovered than by painting the town red with Hollywood faces?

PH was allegedly spotted smoothing GC at an upscale club.

GC is supposedly well off and has already proposed marriage to PH, who may not able to make DB pop the question during their longish affair.

Moreover, PH and GC are purportedly contemporaries.

Insecure host

Pena said Stan was

MARION Cotillard

RUSHES NICOLAS Cage and wife Alice Kim

AMY Perez

Dunce who?

NEW ORLEANS—Stuff homebrewer Duane Chapman, known as "Dog the Bounty Hunter" on reality TV, claims he put up the $15,000 bond that got actor Nicolas Cage out of jail for unlawful affair his arrest in the French Quarter.

Spokesperson Heather Dietel released a statement "Brooks to whom Chapman describes himself as a Cage fan, but says he was acting on behalf of Cage solely as a client and not for publicity for his cable TV show.

New Orleans police said Cage was arrested after he gunned his wife Alice Kim's arm and punched on cars in a drunken argument about whether a nearby house was the one they were visiting. He was booked on charges of domestic abuse, disturbing the peace and public drunkenness. AP

Rewarded

LOS ANGELES—Fourth actress Marion Cotillard will join Joseph Gordon-Levitt in the cast of "The Dark Knight Rises," the finale to the recent Batman film series, Warner Brothers told Tuesday.

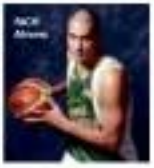
The film reunites the actor with Christopher Nolan, who recently directed Bale in "Inception."

"The Dark Knight Rises" also marks Christian Bale's return to Warner Bros. and Batman. The main cast also includes Anne Hathaway and Tom Hardy.

The film is due for release in July 2012. AFP

Top of the tabloids

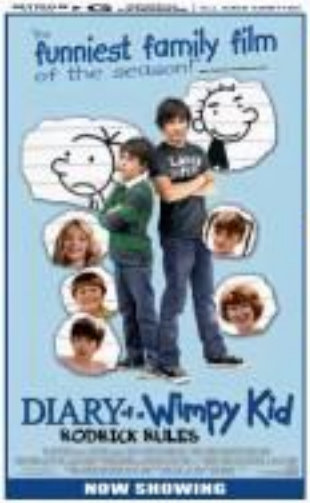
The top show biz news in the Inquirer Lifestyle Readers (and why we are stoned, if we are



ACE Alvarez

moved):

- Kahirap maniwala na sa wasak ni Sarah ko kay Jeff, Mirlene Picks 'magsayaw' raw sa Showtime (Ulipat ito, eh.)
- Na-insecure ba si Sarah sa mga girlfriend, bisexual ba siya? (Ang dami niyang nagsasabi lately ng gayon nung sakdalan niya yata?)
- Julie Gonzalez tips dismissal at Asian Idol (Baka may lalong mas deperado.)
- Kinailang Kyla Nick, pelo (Ingerado kaya?)
- Amy Perez sa: Lorrie sa Face to Face! (Ano kaya sa, ref siya pa.)
- Regine remembering Sam Sangre ang pinaglihuhan! Dinala sa bed long ago (Ay-Opo.)



CLICK!

Biblical mysteries

THE National Geographic Channel reveals the secrets behind some of the most recognized artifacts in all of Christianity—the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Shroud of Turin—in back-to-back "Bible Mysteries" episodes tonight starting at 8 p.m.

Summer safety tips

GMA News has launched "I ♥ Ready: Napkonsulta sa Internet," a multimedia campaign offering practical tips on how to prepare for various emergencies.

Viewers may send their own tips and video entries through GMA News' Twitter account @gmanews, Facebook and Instagram page @gmanews, or email 143@gmanews.tv/ready.

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- Proficient in oral & written communication skills
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Project Manager/Senior Sales Engineer

- With at least 5 years experience
- Preferably in Construction Industry

Project Engineer/Sales Engineer/Cadet Engineer

- With engineering background
- Experience in an advantage but not required

Accountant/Office Staff

- With at least 3 years experience
- Must be computer literate
- Well organized, result oriented and requires minimum supervision
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- Must be willing to travel

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- Graduate of Psychology
- Must be willing to travel nationwide
- At least 2 years work experience in the related field is required
- Must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills

SALES ENGINEER
- Male, age must be 21 to 30 years old
- Engineering graduate preferably Civil
- Has at least 1 year work experience in selling construction materials
- Willing to travel and be field based

SALES SUPERVISOR (OTC)
- Male, graduate of any course
- Has at least 2 years sales experience in selling FMCG products
- Willing to be assigned in Mindanao

AREA CONTROLLING SUPERVISORS
- Male, Graduate of Marketing, Business Studies or equivalent
- Must have minimum of 2 years experience in handling Modern Trade/Groceries
- With strong background in trade marketing or sales handling grocery
- Willing to travel

BRAND MANAGERS
- Preferably male
- Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts/Marketing or equivalent
- Must be willing to travel
- Preferably Brand Manager / Manager, Sales Supervisor or Senior Marketing Specialist in Beverage/Food/Personal Care industry

SPECIAL ACCOUNT MANAGER
- Male, Graduate of any 4 year course, Business Manager, Management, Marketing, Sales or Agriculture
- Has at least 2 years sales experience in Agricultural products
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SALES OPERATIONS SUPERVISORS
- Male, at least 18 to 25 old and above
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- Willing to travel

TERRITORY SALES SUPERVISORS
- Male, Civil Engineer, Graduate of any 4 years course
- Graduate of any 4 years course, Business Management, Marketing or Sales
- Has at least 1 year Telecommunications experience in Network or Industrial Automation

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- Must be civil and possesses communication skills
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- Experience with top auditing firms is preferred.
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- This position will be based in the company's Tagaig office.

Purchasing Officer
Davao-based

Position Details

- Preferably a Business/Accountancy or Engineering graduate with above average scholastic record.
- Must have at least 1-year experience as a purchaser/ buyer in a corporate environment, preferably from the banana/pineapple industry.
- Must have very good communication and negotiation skills.
- Must be a person with uncompromising integrity and work ethics.
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Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for interview.

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ACCOUNTS PAYABLE / RECEIVABLE SPECIALIST: Candidate should have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 2 years work experience in handling payables & receivables, and competent in using accounting software. Must have strong work ethics and detail-oriented.

Send a letter of application and CV with recent passport size photograph thru email **prisnodialbuilders@gmail.com** by April 28, 2011.

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interviews.

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- College graduate, preferably male in Journalism
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ART DIRECTOR

- College graduate, preferably Mass Communication/ Multimedia Arts
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- Preferably with media-related experience or with basic knowledge of news operations
- Experienced in content management system (Manage.ph, Joomla, Drupal)
- Creative with the ability to execute a web design concept
- Able to communicate effectively and with good problem solving skills
- Must be a team player

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- College graduate, preferably BS Computer Science / Information Technology
- At least 3 years experience in a related job
- Knowledge in Linux System Administration and Security Project Management, Apache, PHP/MySQL, LDAP, Web 2.0/3.0 development
- Cisco Certified Network Associate
- Expertise in Network Management
- Software and hardware maintenance
- Scripting language ability (Perl)

ACCOUNT MANAGER

- College Graduate of any Mass Course
- At least 2 years working experience as Account Manager or member of the Sales Force in media/internet is an added merit/s
- Must be Multi-Driven, Result-Oriented, Self-starter, Enthusiastic, Creative and Resourceful
- With excellent communication Skills and Presentation Skills
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- Electrical Engineer
- Instrument Engineer
- Contracts Expert
- OSBL Leader operator/SA
- DCS Engineers
- OSBL Leader operator/TO
- Contract Engineer
- Cost Engineers
- E & I Supervisor
- Instrument Engineer
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This consultancy aims to:

- **Develop tools for providing services for children affected by conflict using Inter-Faith and Multi-Cultural Approaches.**

INQUIRY: The guidelines for "Request for Proposal" (Ref. 2011102) including the Terms of Reference can be downloaded from the UNICEF Philippines website (**http://www.unicef.ph/**). Deadline for proposal submission is on May 10, 2011.

MEDICAL RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIST (1)

Major Duties & Responsibilities:
- Performs laboratory procedures and provides clinical laboratory support to assigned research projects
- Completes study related documents
- Assists in data management and in developing study protocols, operating guidelines, quality control (QC) procedures, and laboratory operating procedures (SOPs)
- Operates laboratory equipment and maintains equipment maintenance records
- Maintains availability of laboratory and office supplies

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Molecular Biology, Medical Technology, Microbiology, or Allied Sciences and works with background in the principles and applications of molecular and cell biology
- Must have an interest and motivation in the field of medical research and prior experience in medical research laboratory is a plus
- With minimum work experience
- With initiative and can work with minimal supervision, organized and methodical
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be trainable and willing to be trained
- Possess good oral and written English communication skills, proficiency in computer skills is a plus
- Possess integrity in handling critical research data
- Knowledgeable in basic computer applications (MS Excel, MS Word and Powerpoint)

Interested applicants may submit their application letter, comprehensive resume, with recent 2x2 pictures and TOR on or before May 3, 2011 to:

PHILIPPINES-AFRICINE VIROLOGY RESEARCH UNIT (PAVRU)
Unit 601, 6/F Peoples Drug Forest HQ Corporate Tower, Mindanao Ave., Cor. Biak-na-Bato St., Brgy. Bahay Toro, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (+632) 912-4 PAVRU
or Email to: **avrucresearch@ymail.com**

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5th Floor Bldg. B – SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
(02) 633-7 • Fax 635-0020

G/F Travellers Life Bldg., 400 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita-Manila
(In front of National Library)
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Need an Executive Assistant?

A reputable business organization is looking for

3 Executive Assistants

with the following qualifications:

- Computer Literate
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- Minimum 2-years of experience in a similar field

Interested applicants may submit their resumés to the company's P.O. Box No. 3661, Manila Post Office or email to **cmba_national@yahoo.com**

A recognized manufacturing company in the tin-can making industry located in Novaliches, Quezon City is currently in need of an ME Supervisor or ME Foreman with the following qualifications:

MACHINE SHOP SUPERVISOR or FOREMAN

- Mechanical Engineering/Technology graduate
- Male/Females, at least 30 years of age
- With minimum of two (2) years work experience in ME operations and knows how to operate CNC, Milling, Lathe, and bending machines
- Knowledge in tool & die is a plus
- Team player and can work with minimum supervision

Interested applicants may send their resumé to the company's P.O. Box No. 3661, Manila Post Office or email to **jobs_bridge@yahoo.com.ph**

get hired
www.jobmarketonline.com

PAREB-MLS 19th Congress

THE PAREB-MLS HELD ITS 19TH MLS Congress "MLS-Going High Tech" at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila on March 31, 2011, exclusively sponsored by Ayala Land.

It was an overflowing success with more than 500 in attendance. The location has been ever filled with PAREB delegates from all over the country.

BOB topped the most number of delegates with 64 and won a special prize. They were followed by PUNEB with 37, PMEB with 31, FBB with 31, MUNEB with 31, LBBB with 27, PRB with 26, and IMBP with 21 delegates.

There were some "reports" from the South. Some noted that 3 delegates – Elmo Reyes, Jay Mangubat and Seneca Layno, the farthest "island" came from Zamboanga, Canuto Cabagan.

Topics for the congress included "Email Marketing" by Gerald Raymundo, Pasig Realtors Association and a Professional Real Estate Practitioner and Appraiser; "Internet and Mobile Marketing" by Leah Belo-Jimenez, General Manager of Multimedia Asia, and "Real Estate Financing and Investment" by Ike Mendoza of Ayala Land.

The MLS Exchange was modernize-active with online providing free WiFi connections during MLS Congress by the pot holders. Delegates were invited to submit their finished to buy, listings which were compiled and posted on the LCD screen during lunchtime.

President Arche Bel-Tesoro gave the PAREB members a timely overview of PAREB's New Administration which was compatible and clear and supported by most of the members in attendance. This portion had to be shortened due to time constraints and did not allow for the other 2 panelist, past president Manny Mendoza and secretary general Raphon Bencuya to participate.

Awards were given to the 2010 MLS Top Contributors with Agnes Mercado-Acosta, BOB with the highest aggregated cost factors of its members to MLS, Bulilit prizes were given.

Ayala Land, provided dinner and first-class entertainment featuring a performance of the "Soul Train" band.

They also sponsored a PAREB Pinay Idol singing contest with 6 participants from the Provincial Boards. The winner of the P10,000 prize was Vivian Llanes of PAREB.

GENTING-ITAR TOURISM ACADEMY (GSTA) CONDUCTS 2ND GRADUATION RITES

On March 26, 2011, GSTA staged its 2nd Graduation Ceremonies for students in Office and hospitality courses in Culinary Arts, Food & Beverage, Housekeeping, Front Office and Hospitality Operations. Rejoiced by Andrew Chan, the Executive Vice President of GSTA's parent company Genting Hong Kong, the graduation was attended by the Academy personnel, key officials from Star Cruises, Travellers International and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other guests from the school's affiliates, including the graduates' parents and relatives. Some of the graduates have been undergoing relevant On-the-Job training (OJT) on Star Cruises while the rest are currently processing their requirements for deployment. GSTA is owned by Genting Hong Kong Limited and Travellers International Hotel Group Inc. (a joint partnership between Alliance Global Group, Inc. [AGI] and Genting Hong Kong Limited). Genting Hong Kong Limited, formerly known as Star Cruises Ltd., together with its publicly-controlled entity, Norwegian Cruise Line, is the third largest cruise operator in the world. Genting Hong Kong is an affiliate of the Genting Group, which is recognized as one of Asia's leading and best-managed multinational companies with 5 public companies listed in Singapore and Malaysia, power generation, oil palm plantation, property development, entertainment and oil and gas. Shown are the GSTA graduates, with Andrew Chan (seated, second), Genting Hong Kong (HK) Executive Director's, academic awardees and guests.

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WORKING PEOPLE

Editor Jason Patrick M. Balsalobre

A myopic view of wages

WHEN WORKERS' INCOME won't make both ends meet, or when their take-home pay can no longer take them home, something's got to give. Often, the concrete view taken by neutral onlookers is to increase the wages. This is often a myopic view and usually results in unintended adverse consequences to the intended beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries

Last July 1, 2010, the NCR Wage Board gave a P22 increase in workers' minimum wages. This brought the new minimum wage to P404 per day. That minimum wage increase benefitted only some 2.3 million workers or 20% of all those employed in the formal sector of the economy.

That grant did not provide any relief at all to the unpaid family workers, own-account workers, household workers, government employees and government owned corporations, and workers in the so-called underground economy, which number a roughly 11 million, out of the 39 million workers in the workplaces today.

Unintended consequences

For businessmen and employers, the consequences are simple and severe. The P22/day increase in the minimum wages in 2010 translates into roughly P22 billion in annual incremental expenses to wages, absorbtion adjustments, and wage-related benefits for the 2.3 million workers. Even businessmen and employers are still reeling from the heavy burden of last year's wage increase, the danger of additional burden in 2011 is imminent as Regional Wage Boards are lastly delayed until petitions for another round of wage increase. The law does not allow wage adjustments to be made within one year from the last wage increase. Only 1, 2011, will the petitions for improving arrests. I do not wish to debate whether there are such events or not.

When wage increases are mandated, there are unintended consequences whose ripples are felt by all sectors of society. When wages are raised, skilled workers in finding decent jobs in the formal sector.

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilio

the cost of production and of goods sold tend to increase as well. This results in higher prices of price commodities needed by the masses. The masses, especially those who do not receive wage adjustments, are the most badly hit by the adverse effects of the wage increases. Remember that of the 39 million workers in the workplace, only 2.2 million are minimum wage earners and 23 million are in the informal sector or to government and are therefore not covered by the wage adjustment at all.

Nature of minimum wage

I remember how my good friend, the Honorable Carlos Lagmoad IR, Executive Director of the National Wages and Productivity Commission, explains the need for a minimum wage. He said that the minimum wage is "rooted in the basic concept of providing workers with salary/ net protection against unduly low wages. Such minimum wage rates shall therefore be confined as much as possible to protecting the lowest paid workers from the vagaries of the labor market."

In simple words, setting the minimum wage provides a safety net for the entry level or lowest paid workers, such as new entrants to the labor force, unskilled and inexperienced workers. But as long as the minimum wage is maintained at a competitive level, more workers would have a greater chance to land a job in a labor-surplus economy like the Philippines. It is easier to promote Filipino labor when it is of high quality and reasonably priced in the global market. Where the minimum wage is raised far beyond the safety net level and loses its competitiveness in the global market, workers with low level of skills will have very little chance, if at all, to competing with more

Wages and productivity

To be viable, wages must be exchanged with (medium of value that customers are willing to pay for. Often, businessmen and employers expect a certain level of productivity in exchange for workers' wages. Absent this exchange, wages cannot be sustained and will be reduced by market forces. Remember that of the 39 million workers in the workplace, only 2.2 million are minimum wage earners and 23 million are in the informal sector or to government and are therefore not covered by the wage adjustment at all.

Over the years, the formal sector has been losing business establishments to the informal sector. High wages tend to encourage the shrinking of the formal sector and discourage micro and small establishments which do not have the financial resilience to cope with mandated wage adjustments. This is especially true if wage increases are imposed in times of a sality net and devoid of a corresponding increase in productivity. During the period from 1999 to 2008, at the center of the Asian Financial Crisis, 65,000 business establishments moved down from the formal sector to the informal economy. In the process, nearly half a million jobs were lost.

The burden of wages

It is interesting to note that the burden of minimum wage adjustments tend to be borne not by the large companies employing 200 or more employees. Large companies number roughly 1,000 in the Philippines today and account for roughly 32% of employment in the formal sector. On the other hand, the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), account for roughly 68% of total employment in the formal sector. The 2.2 million employees who are minimum wage earners are in the more than 600,000 micro enterprises, close to 40,000 small enterprises, and close to 20,000 medium enterprises. The micro-enterprises and the SMEs host the bulwark of wage increases. Many of these smaller companies do not have the efficiency or stability to absorb additional wages, especially where there is no added value received in exchange.

In terms of productivity, the Philippines ranks eleventh among 13 Asian countries in the among comparative it is INVESTMENT EQUALS EMPLOYMENT.

This might sound simplistic. It is desirable to have jobs and high wages. But at crunch time, when one has to choose which one to have, it is usually sound to choose the job.

Ernie is current Chair of the Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM). He also chaired ECOP's Long Range Policy Planning Committee. He was also President of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines in 1998. He is the President and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. His new books, "Life's Big Lessons" and "Life's Big Gifts" are now available at book stores. He can be reached at ernie_yall-tad@yahoo.com.)

Time out!

By Andy Abello

EASTER SUNDAY IS A GOOD time to call for a "Time Out" from the business of life and our schedules at work, to reflect on living a life based on what is really important to us.

St. Paul, wrote in one of his letters to the church in Ephesus, "Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

Insight 1: Live life based on the importance rather than the urgency.

The very careful, then, how you live – not as UNWISE but as WISE."

The answer to decode each day reacting to the "Tyranny of the Urgent" and find themselves victims of events and tasks that just seem to come their way. We live in a very "tension" world in many cases, interwoven threats, instant miseries and fast food diets. It is no wonder that people are becoming increasingly impatient. This may be due to the conditioning of the environment we live in today.

The WISE live their lives based on what is important, and remain victorious over their circumstances and are able to remain focused and prepared to capitalize on opportunities in life. To help live life based on my priorities I have taken to heart Dr. John Maxwell's advice to "identify priorities early in life and manage them on a daily basis." Maxwell refers to a priority list, his "Daily Dozen", as I've coined a similar list and called it my "TOP TEN."

My top 10 *(can be today...*

1. I choose to remain centered at my God.
2. I choose to express my self unconditionally.
3. I choose to bring joy to the lives in my kids.
4. I choose to be fit.
5. I choose to lead my team with (+) work attitudes.
6. I choose to smile as he laughter at what I do best.
7. I choose to live towards excellence in everything that I do.
8. I choose to keep on learning something new.
9. I choose to encourage those around me to become better if not the best.
10. I choose to enjoy the rest of today!

You can create yours and I am sure with unending priorities daily, you will do better each day!

Insight 2: Live life being opportunistic for opportunities

"...thinking the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

While opportunities present itself everyday, consider your purpose and design before investing any time, effort and resources pursuing these opportunities in life. To help live life based on my priorities I have taken to heart Dr. John Maxwell's advice to "identify priorities early in life and manage them on a daily basis." Maxwell refers to a priority list, his "Daily Dozen", as I've coined a similar list and called it my "TOP TEN."

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6. I choose to live towards excellence in everything that I do.
7. I choose to keep on learning something new.
8. I choose to encourage those around me to become better if not the best.
9

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

TCT No.	Location	Type	Land Area (+/- sq.m. /more or less)	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
46 Titles	Located within Nemarville Homes 1 and 2, Brgy. San Juan, Municipality of San Miguel, Province of Bulacan. Nemarville Homes 1 is located on the north side of Magsaysay Road, diagonally across Nemarville Homes 2. The site is approximately 200 meters west from San Juan Brgy. Chapel, some 480 meters southeast from the corner of Municipal and Magsaysay Roads in the vicinity of San Miguel Municipal Hall	Residential Land	various	Apr. 26, 2011 10:00 a.m.	In front of the Office of the Ex-Officio Sheriff of Bulacan, located at the back of the Bulnagan ng Katarungan, Provincial Capitol Compound, Malolos City, Bulacan

Along Magsaysay Road :

Subdivision Gate :

Phase 1 :

Main Road going to Phase 2 :

Phase 2 :

Phase 2B :

All properties are to be sold on "As-Is, Where-Is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction dates.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 401-7288 or send an email to: foreclosuredepartment@stamproperty.com

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LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice

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FOR LEASE

FOR LEASE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

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PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

R.T. No.	Location	Type	Land Area / Floor Area in Square Meter	Appraised / Mortgagee HM Price	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
T-11809	Located on the northwest side of Juan Dela Cruz Street (extension), within District of Tuni, Davao City. The site is adjacent of the PUP Office, just across Doña Carmen Iñonog City High School.	Vacant Residential Land	214	1,501,000	May 05, 2011 10:00 a.m.	Main entrance of the Hall of Justice, Ecoland, Davao City
T-48338	Located on the northeast side of Guardian Street, within Brgy. Dalisay, District of Tuni, Davao City. The site is about 50 meters southeast from the corner of Guardian and Bodiya Streets, 250 meters southwest from Tuni Hub Part, 900 meters southeast from Tuni District Hall or about 23 km. from Davao City Hall.	Vacant Residential Land	900	900,000		

All properties are to be sold on "As-is, Where-is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction dates.

For further information, please contact us at 222-3011-2021 or send an email to: foreclosure.davao@pilgroup.com.

(PH) April 17 & 24, 2011

JRU Law School offers full scholarships

THE LAW SCHOOL of Jose Rizal University is offering full scholarships to college graduates interested in pursuing a career in law and possessing scholastic aptitude that is competent with the requirements of a law course. The bona-fide competence is the English language, strict verbal intuitions on the land for comprehension and judgment, and keen reasoning and thinking, all of which are essential requisites in the study of law.

For honor graduates, the scholarship grant will be provisional without need of undergoing any qualifying examinations.

For other graduates, a qualifying examination and short interview will be conducted on the following dates: May 10, 11, and 12, 2011, to be held at the Main Campus of JRU at 80 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Call 7-heng at 534-8700.

The scholarships will be for one year, which can be renewed for the duration of the four-year course if the student maintains a grade of 2.0 in every semester.

The JRU Law School is one of the top law schools in the country. In the 2010 Bar Examinations, its passing percentage for first-time examinees is 80%, against the national passing percentage of 23%. It is the only highest rating in Metro Manila and tenth overall across the country.

For further inquiries, please call Telephone Number 531-4031 local 33 and look for Nilda de la Cruz.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Date	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in PHP
1. Procurement of Medical Equipment for Various Offices of the Department of Health (DOH) (Re-bid)	The Procurement of Medical Equipment for Various Offices of the Department of Health (DOH) is an undertaking...	Various	PHP [illegible]

1. The DOH now asks for the submission of eligibility documents. Interested individual consultants must submit their eligibility documents, which will be used to determine their eligibility and shortlisting for the above consulting services on or before 10 May 2011 at CBAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.
2. The CBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents/Expressions of Interest in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
3. Shortlisting will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Consulting services are open to all qualified Filipino citizens and organizations, as well as joint ventures between Filipino consultants and consultants from countries that extend reciprocal rights to Filipino consultants, in accordance with Executive Order (EO) No. 245, dated 22 April 2003.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Interested parties may also visit the DOH website at www.doh.gov.ph

Attn: [illegible]
Department of Health
CBAC Secretariat
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. 743-1623 local 2402
Email Address: cbac.secretariat@doh.gov.ph

Approved by:
[illegible]
Undersecretary
Chairperson, CBAC

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office VI
[illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
1st Semester CY 2011 Pesticides Requirement of NFA Region VI

The National Food Authority, Regional Office 6, Iloilo City, through the 1st CY 2011 Procurement Committee, invites all qualified and interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following items:

Item No.	Item Description	QTY	UNIT	Unit Price (PhP)	Total Amount (PhP)
1	Carbofuran 3% granules	3,000	sacks	1,250.00	3,750,000.00
2	Fenitrothion 50% EC, 100cc/bt	50	liters	1,250.00	62,500.00
3	Fenitrothion 50% EC, 1 Liter/bt	50	liters	1,250.00	62,500.00
4	Metaldehyde Pellets, 50 gram bait with 2.5% to 3% mesurol	375	boxes	1,250.00	468,750.00
5	Cypermethrin 10% Granules	25	drummed	1,250.00	31,250.00
6	Cypermethrin Powder Aerosol	25	drummed	1,250.00	31,250.00
7	Rodenticide	5	liters	1,250.00	6,250.00
8	Rodenticide	5	liters	1,250.00	6,250.00
					4,412,500.00

Bidders shall have the option of submitting a proposal in one or all items and evaluation and contract award will be undertaken on such item basis.

Complete delivery of goods is required within two (2) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed. Bidders should submit a bid security in the form of Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Irrevocable Letter of Credit equivalent to two percent (2%) of the ABC as indicated in Item 9 of the Bid Data Sheet.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the National Food Authority, Regional Office 6 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on April 25 to May 6, 2011 for a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received by the Bids and Awards Committee on May 9, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. Late bids shall be rejected. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount as stated in Item 9 of the Bid Data Sheet.

Source of Documents	Amount of Bid Security
Purchase of Bidding Documents at the Cashier's Office	Declaration of Bid Security
Purchase of Bidding Documents at the Commercial Bank of [illegible]	Pre-selected 20% of the ABC

Bidding Documents on May 10, 2011, 2:00 p.m. at Iloilo Regional Office/Conference Room, National Food Authority, NFC Jaro, Iloilo City. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall be rejected.

The National Food Authority, Regional Office reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Atty. [illegible]
Regional Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
National Food Authority
Regional Office 6
Brgy. [illegible]
Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 329-2161, 3290001
Fax No. (033) 3290002

Date: [illegible]
[illegible]
Attorney-in-Fact

DR. VILLARAMA, II PPFM'S "EXCELLENCE AWARDEE"

Dr. Mariangenes P. Villaruel (2nd from left), who turned 50 on April 19, is the recipient of the "Excellence Award" in the field of Private Practice from the Philippine Federation of Professional Associations (PFPA) during its 6th PFPA Excellence Awards Program on April 14 at the Cory C. Aquino Function Hall at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan City. Dr. Villaruel, flanked by from left: Dr. Manilo Lee/C. Tan, chairman, Committee on Awards, with Pres. Pinlang L. Villaruel, Dr. Reynaldo D. Cornell, PFPA President and wife, Mrs. Rina, is the Governor/Chairman of the upcoming grand international conference with accompanied attendance of over 1,000 foreign and local dentists, the Asia Pacific Dental Congress which will be held on May 1 to 6, 2011 at the PICC. Dr. Villaruel is also the incoming president of the Asia Pacific Dental Federation for the term 2011-2012. Dr. Villaruel is among four PFPA's Excellence Awardees, the other three being in the fields of academe, government service and organizational development. The four awardees were conferred this coveted award was Dr. Primo Gonzales, dating back in 1988. The PFPA Excellence Award is to be established to serve as inspiration to member professionals to exercise their chosen fields of endeavor as well as motivate them to give their best for the country. It aims to be the highest distinction to be conferred on professionals who have displayed exemplary contribution in the advancement of their professions and to nation-building.

95th Freemasons' Annual Convention to be held in Davao City

THE 95TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines will be held in Davao City on April 27-30. The festivities like regular gathering of all freemasons from the Philippines, where among their major activities will be their election of their Grand Master for 2011-12, as well as other grand lodge officers. The incumbent Grand Master is Gen. Avelino "Sonny" Razon, Jr. former PNP National Director, who is expected to hold over his chapter of authority by named Deputy Grand Master Leonardo Abaquin, former Region 11 Director (1998-2000) and Asst. Secretary of the DPWH (2000-2001). Every year, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines bids out the hosting to its regional districts, awarding the national gathering to be conducted in different cities every year. The last Davao Convention was held at SMX Convention Center of the Mall of Asia, Manila.

This year's ReCon proper will be held at the Davao Convention and Trade Center, with other events held in other venues, such as the preevent Grand Master's Cup golf tournament on April 26, at the Ruben Torres Rodeo Country Club. Bonding among freemasons under the Grand Master's Stud Challenge on April 27, at the Blue Monument and Be a Shedding Range, respectively.

Hosting this year's Reunion is Masonic District 811-A, Davao City, which is composed of around 2,000 members under 7 subordinate lodges, including the Tiger Mountain Lodge No. 188 in Digos, Davao del Sur and Barangay Lodge No. 40, which is one of the oldest masonic lodges in the Philippines. Leading the charge for the Davao Masons is its incumbent District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM), Joel Lasanas (of Digos Lodge #98).

Davao Masons pose with their erstwhile (the first) offering during this year's Araw ng Kagitingan at the Veterans Memorial Park.

Around 3,000 registered delegates are expected to be in this event, according to Convention Director Rustan Ravi Reyes, former DDGM of Davao, although the adds that as many as 1,000 visitors from non-paid atmosphere registered. Slated to be the annual gathering is at the ReCon proper and its many ancillary events. Also expected to grace the event are Past Grand Masters Reynato S. Puno, former Chief Justice, and Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., former Secretary of the DPWH. Davao City mayor, Hon. Rodrigo Duterte, will give the welcome address and Justice Arturo E. Brion of the Philippine Supreme Court will keynote on April 28.

This will be Davao's third time to host the Annual Communication. The first time was in 1961, which was also the first ever ReCon to be held outside Metro Manila. Residing the Davao district then was Judge Cleto Arcangel (ret.). Davao's second hosting was in 1983, wherein Davao City's renowned surgeon and philanthropist, Dr. Rizal Apostadero, was elected Grand Master. Davao City would have again became ReCon host in 2000 were it not for the Davao airport bombing that occurred prior to the scheduled event.

NREA sets Assessors' Appraisers' Review on May 12-June 12 in Baguio City

BAGUIO MAY 12 TO REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS, assessors and brokers in Cordillera Administrative Region and nearby provinces, who need additional Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits to renew their PRC Professional Identification Cards (IDs) without taking examinations, including those preparing to take the PRC Licensure examination on July 31, 2011.

The National Real Estate Association (NREA) has slated a 15-day Really Appraisers' Review; the last to be held at CAR, from May 12-June 12, 2011, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only) at the Easter College, Easter School Road, Dunsad, Baguio City.

The review classes are ideal for real estate brokers, assessors, assistant assessors, employed by local government units, marketing government financial institutions, and real estate appraisers, who need to be licensed by the PRC, or real estate practitioners, who wish to upgrade and refresh their knowledge of real estate appraisal principles and techniques.

NREA is a service provider accredited by the Professional Regulatory Board for Real Estate Service (PRBRES) to conduct the Real Estate Appraisers Associate Course (Appraisal Course equivalent to 120 credit hours) preparatory to the Licensure Examinations to be conducted by PRC on July 31, 2011 for the first time to real estate practitioners.

According to Ma. Teresa Del Mar, NREA national president, Dr. Eduardo G. Ong, PREBRES chairman, has approved the conferring of the review day together with the NREA national board led by chairman Jose "Ka Pepe" F. Mendiet.

Resource speakers are NREA national trustee Ernesto M. Angeles, CPA, RA, as program director; Engr. Rachi Rigor, Rodolfo Lorenzo, Jose Dumpanosa and Teresita Sevilla, all licensed appraisers and brokers.

Registration, which is on a first-come-first-served basis, may be done with the NREA National Office, tel. nos. (02) 633-4483, or (02) 912-2492; accredited at NREA Baguio CAR Chapter office, tel. no. (074) 660-2010; 0922-4250098, (063) 4350015, E-mail address: nrea_org@yahoo.com; nreabaguio@hotmail.com.

Manila HR Learning Forum-HR creation of value thru organization development

BCAE COMPANY ONCE AGAIN INVITES YOU TO ITS Manila HR Learning Forum on April 29, 8-7 p.m. at Bahay Bonifacio Makati. HR topic is Organization Development with Dr. Benjie Castillo as the speaker/facilitator. Value-added Benefits includes a strategic experiential learning with HR experts and members, share best practices and network with HR brand heroes, peers and partners, and more fun, freebies and features of HR ideas, people and fellowship. Register now and you will receive FREE on line handmade about the previous topics in HR Creation of Value, Measuring HR Effectiveness and Psychology in duties module framework. For more details, please contact BCAE Training, Consultancy and Events, Suite 03 UPIS Avenue Bldg. 15th Avenue Cubao, Quezon City or call 709-1888, 709-3113, 0915-6708063, 0813-4026122, email at bcae_events@yahoo.com, look for Allan Jon Rivera. This program was brought to you by Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, School Duties Makati, Activities, Best Economy Bloggers, Pearl of the Pacific and BCAE Talentland Tours.

Colegio de San Pascual Baylon class of '96 homecoming

COLEGIO DE SAN PASCUAL BAYLON (CSPB) high schoolmates of 1996 will have its grand alumni homecoming on Apr. 30 at 5 p.m. onwards at the CSPB Boys Department in Olandin, Bulacan for details, contact Rev. Fr. Oscar Christian Dizon at (044) 686-0000.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF TARLAC (BIDS COMMITTEE)
Multi-year Projects Committee
Capitol Site, Batasan Hills, Tarlac City

INVITATION TO BID

For "One (1) unit Computed Radiography System as specified for the use of NCPH Diagnostic Imaging Section, Province of Tarlac Infrastructure No. 1-04-201 1)"

1. The Provincial Government of Tarlac, through the sources fund of the LOCAL FUND (P10 M) (P5 MP - Basic Health Fee), intends to apply part of the proceeds of the Multi-Purpose Fund (P5,000,000.00 - Basic Health Fee) to payments under the contract for which this Invitation to Bid is issued.
2. The Provincial Government of Tarlac now invites bids for One(1) unit Computed Radiography System as specified for the use of NCPH Diagnostic Imaging Section (Provincial Infrastructure No. 1-04-201 1). The delivery of the equipment is required within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the Notice to Proceed. The 60 days period for delivery is inclusive of weekends and holidays.
3. Bidding will be in accordance with the competitive bidding procedures using sealed bid method as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184.
4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives, and partnerships or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to private organizations duly accredited by the Philippine Government for this purpose.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, Provincial Government of Tarlac, Capitol Site, Batasan Hills, Tarlac City and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on April 25, 2011 to May 16, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00).
7. The Provincial Government of Tarlac reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 16, 2011 10:00 a.m. during the Multi-Purpose Building, Capitol Site. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on May 16, 2011 10:00 a.m. immediately after the deadline for the submission of bids.
9. The Provincial Government of Tarlac reserves the right to waive any and all minor defects in bids submitted and to accept the bid which, in its judgment, will be most advantageous to the government. Unless otherwise specified in the bid documents, the Provincial Government of Tarlac shall award the contract to the lowest calculated and responsive bid.
10. For further information, please refer to:
ENGR. MARIO ANDRES B. ESTRADERA
BAC Chairman
Provincial Agricultural Services Office
Provincial Government of Tarlac
Capitol Site, Batasan Hills, Tarlac City
Telefax No.: (045) 491-0000 loc 2222/2223
E-mail Address: bacsecretariat.tarlac@gmail.com
Facsimile: (045) 624-0000 or 2222/2223

(PB) April 24, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ALBAY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
Capitol Site, Albay

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Albay Bids Award Committee (BAC) invites contractors, manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors duly licensed and authorized by the Philippine Government to participate in the following projects:

1	Purchase of Motor Vehicle (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
2	Supply and Delivery of Photocopier Machine (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
3	Supply and Delivery of Computer Set (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
4	Supply and Delivery of Computer Set (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
5	Supply and Delivery of Computer Set (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
6	Supply and Delivery of Computer Set (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
7	Supply and Delivery of Computer Set (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
8	Supply and Delivery of Computer Set (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
9	Supply and Delivery of Computer Set (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00
10	Supply and Delivery of Computer Set (Brand New Model)	P 1,600,000.00

Prospective bidders may examine/obtain the bidding/contract documents from the BAC Secretariat, Albay Provincial Capitol Site, Batasan Hills, Tarlac City and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on April 25, 2011 to May 16, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00).

The Provincial Government of Tarlac reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 16, 2011 10:00 a.m. during the Multi-Purpose Building, Capitol Site. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on May 16, 2011 10:00 a.m. immediately after the deadline for the submission of bids.

The Provincial Government of Albay reserves the right to waive any and all minor defects in bids submitted and to accept the bid which, in its judgment, will be most advantageous to the government. Unless otherwise specified in the bid documents, the Provincial Government of Albay shall award the contract to the lowest calculated and responsive bid.

For further information, please refer to:

ENGR. MARIO ANDRES B. ESTRADERA
BAC Chairman
Provincial Agricultural Services Office
Provincial Government of Albay
Capitol Site, Batasan Hills, Tarlac City
Telefax No.: (045) 491-0000 loc 2222/2223
E-mail Address: bacsecretariat.tarlac@gmail.com
Facsimile: (045) 624-0000 or 2222/2223

(PB) April 24, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3/F Andrelyn Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Laguna
Telefax Nos.: (049) 545-0050

April 14, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Applicant/ National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1	JI. NITTOH MINING & METALS PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Yasuko Kobayashi Japanese	Chief Engineer
2	MT MICRO OFFICE PHILIPPINES INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Shinichi Takizawa Japanese	Senior Manager for Manufacturing Operations
3	JIDOEN PHILIPPINES, INC. FTP, Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sta. Rosa, Batangas	Mr. Masami Nomura Japanese	Facility Engineer
4	JIDOEN PHILIPPINES, INC. FTP, Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sta. Rosa, Batangas	Mr. Masanori Kawahara Japanese	Facility Director
5	JIDOEN PHILIPPINES, INC. FTP, Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sta. Rosa, Batangas	Mr. Akira Nagahori Japanese	Facility Group Manager
6	JIDOEN PHILIPPINES, INC. FTP, Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sta. Rosa, Batangas	Mr. Eiichi Nozoe Japanese	Facility Engineer
7	TOYO-INK COMPOUNDS CORPORATION	Mr. Takahiro Ozawa Japanese	President
8	PHILIPPINES ETSON OPTICAL INC. CBP, Landmark Special Trips, Canlubang	Mr. Yoshimi Mizushiri Japanese	Technical Manager
9	SLORY (PHILIPPINES), INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kenji Sawaoki Japanese	Parts Inspection Manager
10	PTON CORPORATION PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Toshiaki Ishibe Japanese	Executive Vice President and Treasurer
11	SAN TECHNOLOGY, INCORPORATED CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Masahiro Nakayama Japanese	Vice President
12	SAN TECHNOLOGY, INCORPORATED CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Manabu Ishii Japanese	Administration Manager
13	MICROTOP PHILIPPINES INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Koki Muto Japanese	Vice President
14	NEC TOPPAN CIRCUIT SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. LISP II, Brgy. La Mesa, Calamba City	Mr. Osamu Hirai Japanese	Chairman of the Board & President
15	MITSUBA PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Luisa Technology Center, Lipa City	Mr. Kazunobu Nakamura Japanese	Engineering Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

To avail of free job referral, placement, and employment guidance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Offices (PESO) or log on at www.oneStopJobs.net.

(PB) April 24, 2011

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna 4031
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
(For supplies, materials, equipment, and services)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the following items:

Reference No.	Description	End User	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Bidding Fee (PhP)
A	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT (LOT 1)	AMBDS	P 2,000,000.00	P 2,000.00
B	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT (LOT 2)	AMBDS	P 1,000,000.00	P 1,000.00

Interested parties may secure the bidding documents from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat Office, 2nd Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration, Quadrangle, College, Laguna. The bidding documents may be purchased from the address above upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount indicated in the table above.

Bids must be duly signed by the bidder or his duly authorized representative and submitted in sealed envelopes bearing the name of the bidder, the reference number of the project being bid for, and the date and time the bid will be opened. Bids must be received by the BAC Secretariat at the address above on or before 1:00 p.m. of May 10, 2011. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above on May 10, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Bidders are encouraged to attend the opening of bids.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

	A. BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE	B. BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE	PLACE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 25, 2011 - May 9, 2011 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	April 25, 2011 - May 9, 2011 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration
2. Submission and Opening of Bids	May 10, 2011 1:00 p.m.	April 26, 2011 1:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration
3. Pre-Bid Conference	April 28, 2011 2:00 p.m.	April 27, 2011 2:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration
4. Issuance of Notice of Award	May 12, 2011 2:00 p.m.	April 28, 2011 2:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. Unless otherwise specified in the bid documents, the UPLB shall award the contract to the lowest calculated and responsive bid.

For more information, please refer to:

ATTY. ANTONIO M. MORALES III
Chairman, BAC Secretariat
Telefax No. (049) 536-2290
E-mail Address: bac@uplb.edu.ph

(PB) April 24, 2011

ALBAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Sto. Rosario St., Old Albay Dist., Legazpi City

INVITATION TO BID

To supply the electricity requirements of Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ALECO)

ALECO is pleased to invite interested parties to submit a formal offer to supply the electricity requirements of ALECO for approximately 190,000,000 Kwhr per year for a term of three (3) years of supply contract commencing on June 26, 2011.

ALECO is a distribution utility/cooperative managing the power distribution and supply to the whole province of Albay comprising of three (3) cities and fourteen (14) municipalities.

Interested parties' offer to supply power should include a brief profile of their company and must be submitted to the address below on or before May 16, 2011. For more information needed by the parties, please contact:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc.
St. Vincent St., Old Albay Dist., Legazpi City
Tel. Nos. (052) 481-0555, (052) 820-2488
E-mail: alecoi_cgpi@yahoo.com

(PB) April 24 & 25, 2011

Get the best condo units via affordable down payments at One Capitol

A sample furnished kitchen and dining area. All unit come with fully-tiled floors, granite countertops with overhead cabinets for the kitchen, and fully-finished bathrooms. Compared to other bigger and more opulent developments, One Capitol units at PTB Properties truly give you more value for money.

ONE OF THE BEST-SELLING PROPERTIES of the last of the latest ground-up real estate developments in the country just got something hot and exclusive.

For a minimal 5%, get ready to move in at your very own condo unit at One Capitol, the development of PTB Properties, Inc. One Capitol provides all the values of well-rounded city living in a luxurious setting in the heart and heart of city life, but wishing to retire at the comforts and privacy of their own home at the end of the day.

A 10-storey, 104 residential room condo with studio, one-bedroom and penthouse types available, One Capitol, located within the center and Bond then Rajahdyn subdivision in Pasay City, offers the perennial problem of condo living, most especially limited space since properties, the option to live two units and four floors or one to studio on room bigger unit to live in.

And you can't find any other deal that's better than this one because for their low and modest monthly 5% down payment, a One Capitol unit is definitely the place to be city dwellers. Rooms already set to immediately move-in units come with fully-tiled floors, granite countertops with overhead cabinets for the kitchen, and fully-finished bathroom. Compared to other bigger and more expensive developments, One Capitol units at PTB Properties truly give you more value for money.

Security of your belongings and loved ones are guaranteed with 24-hour security provided within the property itself and of course by subdivision security personnel.

Jesse Ty, PTB Properties' president and CEO, said that it was great being located within the Rajahdyn area, one of the safest and most secure locations in the city with located near major establishments like malls, shopping centers, schools, recreational centers and other major recreational areas.

"By staying at our properties here in Rajahdyn like One Capitol, you really don't have to go far to enjoy life's benefits. Even place access to the nearest beach but you still to enjoy your privacy and sense of exclusivity. Those are things that are hard to find nowadays. We really need to pay big money but then, with our low down payments and easy and affordable payment schemes, what more can you ask for," declares Ty, PTB Properties president and chief executive officer.

PTB Properties Inc. is but becoming known for its "personalized" and truly Filipino type of service that Filipinos and even foreigners look for, that is why PTB Properties continue to come up with projects that truly connects to the hearts of Filipino property buyers.

Other projects of PTB Properties include The 30 Sol Makati, Orion 121, Two Serain Residences and Antipo Area. For more information about One Capitol Condominium and PTB Properties, Inc., visit www.ptbproperties.com.

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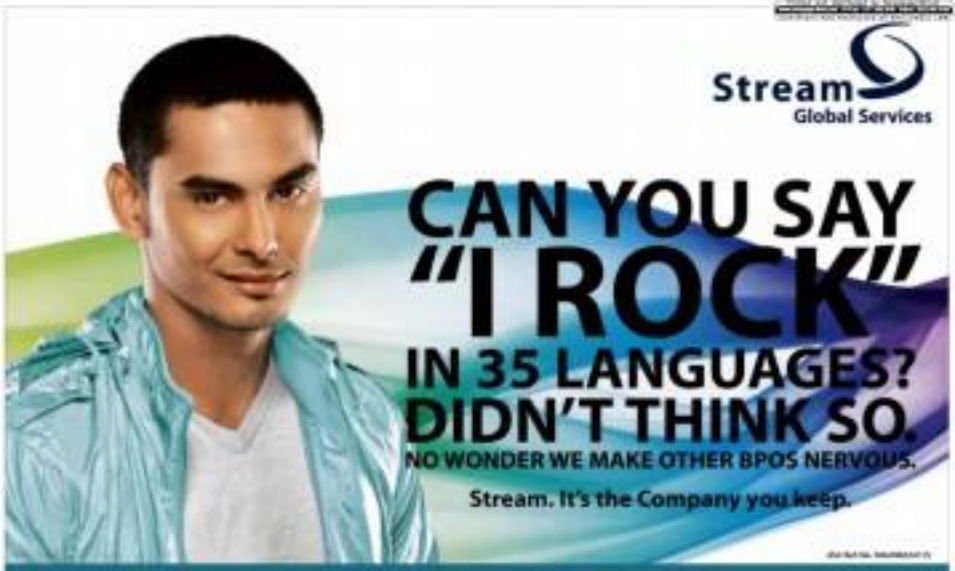

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20th Floor, Tower 2, BGMC Plaza
Ayala Ave. corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City
(02) 877 8800
send resume to phlrs.resume@ihg.com

BAGUIO
IHG Building Camp John Hay, Loakan Road,
Baguio City
(074) 190 4600
send resume to phjrs.resume@ihg.com

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